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AND
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BIRTH.

On 27th September, at Villa Alpha, Kowloon, the wife of V. J. McLAUGHLIN, of a daughter. (London papers please copy.)

DEATHS.

On 6th August, at Shan-hai, TSZE MING-SHANG, late member of the Court of Directors of the Imperial Bank of China, etc., aged sixty-six years.

On 5th September, at the Military Hospital, Iakui (Tongking), JULIUS NEUMANN, Commissioner of Customs, aged 55 years.

On 15th September, at Weihaiwei, FRANK BAIRD REID, a native of Glasgow, aged 53 years.

On 22nd September, at Swatow, China, FREDERICK ERNEST, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. PEARNE, aged 11 months and 20 days. Californian papers please copy.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VOEUX ROAD CL.
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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of August 29th arrived, per the ss. *Zieten*, on Tuesday, the 26th Sept.; and the French Mail of 1st September arrived per the ss. *Oceanien* to-day.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Admiral Rozhdestvensky is now quite well again.

There were 71,282 Russian prisoners in Japan at the end of August.

Japanese have already subscribed ten million yen for the purpose of providing a volunteer fleet.

The *Mikasa's* decks are undamaged. The latest official return of casualties was 256 killed or missing and 373 wounded.

Land in the business quarter of Arab Street, Singapore, was recently sold by auction for as much as \$46 per square foot.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China has declared a dividend for the past half year (ending June 30) of twelve per cent per annum, free of income tax.

The plague totals remain at 291 cases and 274 deaths; the isolated case reported last week having no successors. There is no other communicable disease of importance recorded.

One of the best features of a sea-bath, says the *Family Doctor*, is the salt water inadvertently swallowed by bathers, which is a wonderful tonic for the liver, stomach, and kidneys. We presume an exception would be made in the case of the water of the Canton estuary.

Information has reached Hongkong that the French cruiser *Sully*, which was on the rocks at Bay d'Along, has now become a total wreck, the last typhoon having caused her to break in two. The departure of the local salvage party has been cancelled.

The Kiangnan Dock and Engineering Works' new dry dock is expected to be finished in a month's time, says the *N.-C. Daily News*. The works have three quarters of a mile water frontage. The dimensions of the new dock will be:—

Length (top)	365 feet.
Length (on blocks)	325 "
Water on sill	19 "

New machinery and machine shops are also in course of erection, and before long the new company, under the able superintendence of Mr. R. B. Mauchan and a competent staff, should be able to undertake all kinds of shipping repairs with thoroughness and dispatch.

We are informed that the propaganda for the abolition of judicial torture in China is progressing steadily. The Japanese are, it is stated, now getting interested in the question. Some time ago a leading Review on Law and Jurisprudence published a translation of the chapter of Beccaria and on the 4th September Mr. Volpceli was received by the Minister for Justice and was promised some valuable statistics relating to the abolition of torture in Japan and Formosa.

Eighteen cases of king-fishers' skins have been seized on board the *Catherina Apar*, says a Calcutta telegram. The goods were shipped as medicine and tobacco, and the seizure was the result of a long and careful surveillance by the Customs Officer who detected the contraband. Birds of this description are valuable in China, where they are in great and constant demand. Their export was forbidden by Government several years ago, because of the cruelty involved in the trade.

Letters continue to reach the *Daily Press* denouncing "Thrifty Lad" and all his works. Even if we had not notified that the subject was closed for the present, most of these are inadmissible. What was wanted were figures and facts of interest to both taxpayers and prospective employees. There is no benefit to be gained by publishing assertions that our anonymous correspondent must be a liar, or a skindint, or a dirty fellow. It may interest those who have been thus assailing "Thrifty Lad" to learn that we had a correspondent who claimed to live still more cheaply, and to save even more. He and two other young men share a large room for which they pay 35 a month they share the cost of one "boy" to look after it (\$9) and they share food sent in from a hotel, what they call "two portions at \$80 a month." It will thus be seen that their board, lodging, and attendance costs them a little over 41 a month each; and the writer asserts that they "live like fighting cocks." The majority of letters received, being roughly averaged, put the necessary monthly expenditure of a single young man at \$150.

The *Nanfengpao* says:—On November 15th there will be held on the banks of the Yellow River a grand celebration in honour of the completion of the bridge, which is one of the greatest feats in the history of engineering. Among those expected to be present are Their Highnesses, Prince Ching and Prince Chun, Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai, the Governor of Hunan, and other high officials. Special trains will be run from Peking and Hankow to convey the distinguished guests, and feasts, Chinese and foreign, will be served at all important stations. It is reported that 200,000 taels will be expended in the celebration of the occasion. If this report is true, it seems to us that in view of China's poverty and degradation, such extravagance and waste of money are exceedingly unwise. Viceroy Chang will not be present, as his health does not justify his taking the journey.

From the statement of accounts of the Dallas Horse Repository at Shanghai, it is seen that the net profit for the year ending May 31, amounts to Tls. 24,623.00, and the directors propose to apportion this sum as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 8 per cent. per annum, which will absorb	Tls. 20,000.00
To write off good will account	4,000.00
To carry forward to new account	612.30
	<hr/> Tls. 24,612.30

TERRIBLE DISASTER AT SEA.

VESSEL BLOWN UP.

SHANGHAI, 1st October.

The *Chinhua* brought 79 survivors of the *Hsiehho*, which was blown up in latitude 35.25 longitude 122.37, on Saturday morning at 6.30 in the clearest weather. A totally submerged mine struck the forehold and the vessel sank inside ten minutes.

The two foreign passengers were saved, and the drowned include Engineers Mauchan and Muir.

The survivors escaped in their pyjamas by swimming.

Two boats were successfully lowered, but a third was capsized.

THE TRADE OF PAKHOI

(Daily Press, 23rd September.)

"Pakhoi is the port for the important city of Limchow, from whence considerable quantities of foreign piece goods, etc., were formerly distributed over the country lying between the West River and the seaboard; but now that the West River has been opened to steam navigation a part of the trade has been diverted to that route." Thus says the omniscient *Chronicle and Directory*. Now, says Mr. Acting-Consul HUGHES, in his trade report for 1904, "the trade of Pakhoi is almost entirely with Hongkong." It is not growing, either, the figures for the last six years showing a tendency to decrease considerably. Whereas in 1899 the total trade amounted to £621,280, in 1903 it was only £452,183, and this last year shows a further decrease of £20,396. Exports and imports together were worth Tls. 3,094,658, in 1904, against Tls. 3,431,594 in 1903. It is explained that the commercial area of the port, which has been under British consular observation for twenty-eight years, is now practically restricted to the prefectures of Kaochow and Lienchow, with the Yü-lin department of Kwangsi. Kwangchowwan, another free port, is continually diverting a share of the trade of the first named prefecture. It is rather curious that, while the Kwangsi rebellion was raging, the figures should have given a better aspect to the trade than it wears now when the troubles are supposed to be suppressed; but so it is. Although transit is reported safer from piracy and brigandage, and although the local crops were good, ("as shown by the trifling import of rice"—only 1,206 cwts., the average for five years being nearly 40,000 cwts.,—"and the large export of sugar"—5,391 tons, against 3,136 tons in 1903) we read that the total tael value "has been the lowest since 1886." Mr. HUGHES attributes this to further encroachments of rival trade routes, and "purely to the fact that, owing to low prices in Hongkong, markets were sought inland for some of the more important staples, for example, indigo and tobacco." Taking off the import and export of treasure, the inclusion of which in the volume of trade is apt to be misleading, as it is subject to extraordinary fluctuations, it appears that the actual export of native products from Pakhoi last year was in value only £69,065; the imports, likewise, would be reduced to £268,425. Aniseed products now go via the West River, and live pigs for Hongkong are shipped at Kwangchowwan where possible. The raw silk export, that began with a modest four hundredweights ten or eleven years ago, has now risen to 102 cwts. worth £1,813. That from Kinchow is woven at Canton into a "durable pongee." A remarkable export for 1904 was 149,654 pairs of sea-vine bangles, worth altogether £1,072. Pakhoi also sent 207 head of cattle. The chief import was cotton yarn, value £61,625, other cottons being valued at £36,898. Opium worth £12,583 was imported. Foreign opium trade is now comparatively insignificant, but statistics of the native opium received from Kweichow (principally) and Yunnan are not complete. The average price of the native stuff is given as \$514 per cwt. for the Kweichow, and \$557 for the Yunnan supply. The cotton imports continue to grow, "cotton Italians," with their silky finish, being the favourite. Kerosine and flour were important imports, although quoted amongst sundries. Of 1,326,240 gallons of the former, 901,125 were described as Russian. Borneo and Burman oil established a respectable footing, however; and Sum-

atra is expected to contribute before long. As in almost all parts of China, rubber shoes and boots meet a ready market. Pakhoi took 3,579 pairs last year. Great Britain's share of the imports was about 40 per cent of the whole, its contributions being opium, £12,583; cotton goods, about £20,000; cotton yarn, £61,625; woollen goods, about £2,000; and sundries, approximately £5,000. Burma oil accounted for £3,100 worth of the sundries. Goods worth £26,887 were sent inland under transit pass; and indigo, sugar, and tobacco worth £4,736 came out. All the shipping is French, German, or Norwegian; not one British steamer appearing in 1904. In both number and tonnage there was a decrease. No doubt Pakhoi is suffering, like others, by the increased number of trade outlets.

THE TRADE OF AMOY.

(Daily Press 25th September.)

The report on the trade of Amoy for 1904, by Mr. Consul HAUSER, shows a very noteworthy increase in the net value of imports and exports. For the previous three years it kept steady enough, at £2,742,925 in 1901, £2,794,406 in 1902, and £2,756,442 in 1903. Last year it jumped to £3,071,647, the biggest share of that being £1,424,091 worth of foreign goods imported; and it was this improved demand for foreign products that mainly accounted for the increase. The gross value of the Amoy trade, in foreign vessels, was £3,649,099. The item of £607,451 shown as re-exported represents mainly Formosan tea. Hongkong and other British dependencies contributed 66 per cent. of the foreign importations, while Formosa sent 29 per cent. Very little returned to Hongkong, only nine per cent; but Singapore and the Straits claimed forty per cent. of the export. The Formosan tea and other re-exports, or 84 per cent. of them, went to America. Amoy's chief foreign supplies were foodstuffs, (£436,446 foreign and £155,696 Chinese) cotton goods (£330,532) and opium (£295,238 foreign and £75,005 Chinese). Cotton imports were only sixteen per cent of the total, opium eighteen, and foodstuffs, excluding beans and bean-cake, which it appears are used chiefly for manuring the rice fields, composed 28 per cent. of the imports. It is evident that Amoy is not situated in a fertile or productive neighbourhood, the value of exports of local origin being not more than £384,215. Mr. HAUSER remarks that Amoy's only valuable asset is labour, coolie labour. "It is only," he says, "by the earnings abroad and remittances home made by these coolies that the imports can possibly be paid for." Without roads or water ways, this mountainous and semi-detached district cannot be expected to develop. It is pleasant to read, therefore, that the rice crops were excellent, and the people in the interior in a fairly prosperous condition. A considerable augmentation of the quantity of foreign rice imported does not seem quite consistent with these statements; but it is explained that this rice was brought by emigrant vessels returning from Rangoon and the Straits (British India steamers) who had some special agreement with the H. M. line. The flour import also was bigger, but not remarkably so. Native opium was making its competition effective, Szechuan and Yunnan opium (at \$600 to \$650 per picul, inclusive of duty and likin) going in in much larger quantities; and decreasing the foreign import. The difference in retail price works out at something like \$4 to \$4.50 per catty. "The Amoy rates were comparatively lower than those in Hongkong

and consequently the merchants were the chief sufferers." There was an improved demand for cotton yarn, notwithstanding that the earlier prices were increased by from ten to fifteen dollars a bale; and the Japanese gained a good share of the market. The export of sugar has been diminishing since long before the war; and it cannot be only the war that has caused this. Up to 1900, the average quantity exported (averaging ten years) was 228,832 cwts. of all sorts. The years 1902 and 1903 were about the same, although seriously dropped from 1901—117,359 cwts. were exported in 1903—and in the year under review the total export was only 98,377 cwts. The Japanese, checked in one direction, operated in another way (buying ahead at prohibitive prices) and the expected revival of camphor did not come about. Mr. Consul HAUSER says: "The trade in this most promising article of export, which, if left uninterfered with, would soon assume important proportions, appears to be the only one left of interest to foreigners." It will be remembered that the Chinese officials granted a monopoly of the business to Japanese, but had to cancel it, and compensate the British firms who had suffered in consequence. Only 13 per cent. of the imports were for the interior, and of this kerosene formed the bulk.

THE TRADE OF FOOCHOW.

(Daily Press, 26th September.)

In reporting on the trade of Foochow for 1904, Mr. Consul PLAYFAIR has been faced with a difficulty that is at present inevitable when China's foreign trade has to be treated statistically. That is the confused currency system, with its fluctuations of exchange that make all comparisons difficult, if not unsafe. For instance, all the figures for 1903 were based on an exchange rate for taels and sterling of 2s. 7½d; following the necessary custom of expressing the facts in sterling, his report for last year has to take into account that the exchange rate was much higher, viz. 2s. 10½d. As a further complication, it appears that the Imperial Chinese Customs have "adopted a new method of a riving at the value of imports and exports recorded in their tables." It is not necessary here to explain this further than that the officials deduct from the market value of the goods the sum paid for import duty, plus seven per cent for commission, freight, and insurance. In the case of exports, they add the outward duty and an additional eight per cent. We are unable to see the advantage gained by this complication of the figures, the only effect of which appears to be to add to the export value what is taken off the import. As the practice has been adopted, however, the only thing left to do is to bear it in mind in considering the figures as given. The increase in the value of the gross trade of Foochow, which appears as £411,001 (£2,915,471 last year against £2,504,470 in 1903) is thus to be discounted; but, even then, considerable improvement in the gross returns will be noticed. Of the year's imports, £1,219,086 worth were foreign, and £220,218 native; while exports were valued at £1,476,167. As the exports in 1903 were worth only £1,172,445, we find that this year's exports, on the former method of reckoning, would have shown an actual increase of about £166,000. The actual imports, in the same way, would appear to have been about ten per cent better. The present return shows an increase of £157,146 in foreign imports, and a decrease of £49,867

in the native importations. Coming to the itemised returns, we note that considerably less foreign opium was imported, a fact that will please the missionary, until he notes the increased trade in native opium which is bigger even than shown. The amount of foreign opium imported was 4,585 cwts., valued at £253,156. The year before it was 675 cwts. more, valued then at £253,891. According to Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., the prices all round, both for old and new opium, show a decided increase over those ruling in 1903. In cotton goods, Foochow does not seem to have shared the revived demand noticeable in so many other ports, the import falling off slightly from £115,000 worth in 1903 to £113,650 worth last year. Almost every variety experienced a decrease, "plain Italians" perhaps suffering most. Even Japanese cotton flannel fell away to the extent of £1,400. It seems safe to prophesy that a much heavier import will be shown for the current year. Foochow took more cotton yarn to make up for her poor appetite for cloth, the total importation being worth £146,607 as against £116,693. Of this increase of £29,912, Indian yarns accounted for £28,866. Woollen yarns made a still more remarkable jump into favour, the port taking £3,080 worth as against the meagre £316 worth in 1903. Some part of the increase in metal imports may be set down to the Chinese enthusiasm that year for minting copper cash. The amount of keosene imported was 4,506,489, or just 1,844,274 gallons more than in the previous year. American oil had made some little progress, but it was the product of Sumatra that chiefly accounted for the increase. Foochow also took a first consignment of Russian oil, 400,000 gallons worth, £8,296. There was a noticeable decrease (£3,000 worth less) in the quantity of Japanese matches imported; but there is nothing to show what took their place. Sugar imports showed an increase of 32,957 cwts., and £23,227. Very little rice was imported, and none of it was foreign. In exports, an "encouraging advance" is noted in tea, £1,016,237 worth coming out as against £788,464 in 1903. This represents greatly enhanced values, however; the quantity being less by 14,752 cwts. These figures are not particularly valuable, as the Foochow estimates are not necessarily realised in London. Foochow shippers, in fact, are described as despondent, one of them informing Mr. PLAYFAIR that the seas in had been a most disappointing one. It is worth noting that this particular shipper pointed out that the commoner teas were scarce and relatively dear, thus quashing the statement that London was becoming a dumping ground for inferior China teas. Another tea-man, still more pessimistic, wrote that China teas no longer appealed to the taste of the British consumer and added: "How 16,000,000 lbs. of China tea, which lie rotting in ware houses for want of buyers, can be a menace to the trade of the Indian tea planter is not at all apparent." With regard to shipping, there was an all-round decrease of foreign, the chief falling off being from Japan. It is a grain of comfort at a time when such things are being said as were said at the meeting of the Douglas S.S. Company the other day, to read that "British shipping maintained its pre-eminence both as to number and tonnage of steamers."

The Peking and Tientsin Times reports that a scheme has been started for a "Patriotic Contribution" fund to pay off the indemnity by a popular subscription, which is to be started in Peking and cover the entire empire. The money is to be raised, without coercion, within a year.

HONGKONG SHIPPING COMPETITION.

(Daily Press 27th September.)

The capital of the Douglas Steam Ship Co., Ltd., is one million dollars; but the local valuation of the company, as it appears in the share lists, is now only \$710,000; that is to say, the 20,000 fifty dollar shares are now worth only \$35.50 each. The bare assertion of this very patent fact seems sufficient to show that there is "something rotten in the state of Denmark;" that British shipping locally is in a parlous state; and that "something should be done." Unfortunately, Mr. PERRY did not indicate at the shareholders' meeting what that something should be. Apparently he and the Chairman, Mr. H. P. WHITE, were somewhat at cross-purposes, the one wishing to awaken his colleagues to the urgent need for some action, the other impressed by the unwisdom of open speech, yet both, we imagine, anxious for the greatest good of the shareholders. Prima facie, we would say that such caution, though well enough in its way, would tend ultimately to disfranchise the shareholders. The annual meeting is the statutory opportunity reserved for the shareholders to ask questions and pass criticisms, and to make or unmake directors with a view to conserving the interests of the proprietors at large. It will be noted that Mr. PERRY desired an extraordinary meeting at which to discuss the position of affairs; but that beyond giving the CHAIRMAN some pleasurable sensation, his suggestion was wasted. There may still be two opinions as to the wisdom or otherwise of open discussion; but there can be no doubt that it is not the wisest course to ignore such an agitation. The accounts show how circumstances have changed, and indicate that the old methods that suited the old times may not be the best to-day. Mr. PERRY's suggestion of a syndicate wanting to take over the entire concern at \$50 a share (or shares quoted at \$35.50 only) was surprising, and not a little alarming to those whose interest in British shipping is more patriotic than commercial. If the business is worth its value to any other syndicate, why should it not be worth more to its present proprietors? The figures indicate that it is worth far more. The actual cash assets on mortgage and deposit amount to \$586,000, and with the augmented reserve fund, stand now at \$665,638. There are also the steamers and moorings, written down, since the last meeting, to \$719,311. Thus the original capital of \$1,000,000 is shown to be in hand, and \$384,949 besides. In face of this the shareholders could well afford to have their property written down eight per cent, although, in face of the sales of the other steamers, we fail to see the necessity. This so-called prudence results in a real misrepresentation of the value of the assets, and the suspicion presents itself that its not unwelcome effect is to go some way to disproving Mr. PERRY's complaint that the dividends earned are not commensurate with the capital at its disposal. The expected increase of competition is in no way provided against by such a step, as it is provided against, for instance, by a reserve fund. It is, of course, recognised that the average shareholder shares the feeling with regard to his possible successors that was expressed by the man who said: "Posterity be damned. What has posterity done for me?" These writings down, and these gilt-edged mortgage securities, are all very well for the shareholder of the future; but Mr. PERRY, and many with him, consider that better present

returns are not only desirable but possible. This opens up a large question with regard to British shipping and foreign competition. Japan is Great Britain's ally, but in commerce it is every one for himself; and the expected revival and increase of enterprise on the part of the subsidized Japanese steamers will be sure to re-open the question whether it be not possible, and desirable, for the Government of Hongkong to impose some port dues or tax upon foreign steamers that will counterbalance the advantage they enjoy over British in the shape of subsidies. The CHAIRMAN stated that many fruitless efforts had been made to come to some arrangement with the Japanese, the cause of the failure being darkly hinted in his phrase "but you know the Japanese." This may mean anything; but if it means that the Japanese fail to appreciate the meaning of such mutual understandings as were here indicated, it was unjust; for it is a matter of history that the first overtures were made by the Japanese themselves, and flouted in such a way as to justify the comment, "but you know the Hongkong shipper." However, it is too late to talk of that now, and comments, polite or otherwise, can be discarded. The point is that British shipping will soon have to fight harder than ever for its existence, let alone its predominance; and that it behoves the directors of British shipping companies to leave nothing undone or untried that can possibly help towards success. In the meantime, shareholders are turning from directors to Government and back again, well aware that "something should be done," but feeling their aspirations muzzled in various ways and for various reasons.

THE NEW ANGLO JAPANESE TREATY.

(Daily Press, 28th September.)

If the first Anglo-Japanese Treaty was not aimed at Russian ambitions, it is difficult to exclude the conclusion that the new one is. Our London correspondent's summary, appearing in our telegraphic news this morning, seems to point distinctly to Russia, as the only Power likely to force an unprovoked war upon either Japan or Great Britain. It is unpleasant to have to expose the rift in the lute, and to becloud the happiness which the humane world is presumably extracting from the present peace; but it does not appear to us unjust to suggest that this present peace between Russia and Japan, without the Anglo-Japanese Treaty, would not have come about. The even nearest to it would have been a truce of uncertain duration. The temper of Russia during the negotiations, and her demeanour afterwards, point to the sad fact that she (if we may speak of her as a coherent entity for once) has failed to profit by her late experiences, which should under normal conditions have had a chastening value. What we are now suggesting, that on a suitable occasion in the not distant future, Russia would undoubtedly seek to bring about a war of revenge, does not originate with us. It has been made more or less impudently in Russia and by Russians. On the other hand, we are not so blinded to the human instincts of our allies that we would acquit them of all proneness to a similar temptation in similar circumstances. We have already pooch-pooched the attribute of "magnanimity" in connection with their surprising abandonment of vital parts of their peace proposals; and are convinced that eminently sane and sensible calculations were at the base of their concessions. They are a practical folk, steeped in

Spencer, materialism, and utilitarianism, and we credit them with the common sense that is necessary to the consideration of the question, Is the game worth the candle? Their enjoyment of the game must have been considerably keener than was Russia's, and they were left with an inch or two alight while Russia's was guttering and stinking in the socket; but as the other player in the darkness seemed to have lost all idea of the enormity of the waste, Japan had to have sense for both. This new agreement helps us to understand Japanese shrewdness, and to see the progress they have made since they entered upon the war. If ever a war was a war of self-defence, this, so far as Japan was concerned, was such. It is amusing to those who remember the nervous misgivings with which they contemplated the first step to read that "there was no certainty of success"—the speech of a latter-day apologist for the peace terms. There certainly was no certainty of that sort apparent in Tokyo: only the conviction that it must come, that the people would do their best, and that thrice-armed with a just quarrel, they had a right to hope that the outcome would not be disastrous. As Marshall YAMAGATA has admitted, they were even "prepared for partial discomfiture." The position then was that Japan was threatened, directly menaced, like a person with an incipient cancer. It had to be the surgeon's knife then—or subsequent yielding to the lupus. It is only necessary to compare Japan's present position with her position before the war, to see whether she has lost anything material in the diplomatic engagement in America. The Korean question is settled in her favour; the Liaotung peninsula is regained; the menace in Manchuria removed. What is more, as this Anglo-Japanese agreement shows, Japan has at least ten years in which to mind her own affairs, secure from all menace in that quarter.

THE TRADE OF SWATOW.

(Daily Press, 39th September.)

The trade of Swatow for the year 1904, according to Mr. Acting-Consul WILLIS, "has proceeded along its normal channels with results that cannot be considered otherwise than satisfactory." This comment appears most moderate and conservative, when read in conjunction with the statement that the gross value of the year's trade, whether expressed in taels or sterling, was "the highest on record since the opening of the port;" that is to say, the highest recorded in forty-six or forty-seven years. It amounted to Tls. 50,850,864, or £7,211,713 at the average rate of exchange for that year. Notwithstanding natural disadvantages, such as its exposure to typhoons, and its indifferent harbourage and shipping facilities, Swatow is rapidly increasing its importance as a trade port. This is sufficiently shown in a table given by the Acting-Consul, in which it appears that the gross trade in 1896 was worth over twenty-seven million taels, nearly twenty-nine millions next year, nearer thirty-six millions in 1898, forty-five millions from 1899 to 1903, and now over the fifty millions. Thus in one decade it has nearly doubled itself. To cope with this, extensive reclamation work has been more necessary even than at Hongkong. The increase was well distributed over imports and exports, although the big business done in re-exports is responsible for the biggest increase. Foreign importations rose from £1,855,928 in 1903 to £2,048,185, and native imports from £2,344,892 to £2,909,826. The local

export trade swelled from £1,569,718 to £2,100,436; while re-exports jumped from £83,091 to £153,266. All Swatow transactions are done in Mexican dollars and, as the bulk of the exports go to silver using countries, the rise in exchange cannot be credited with the enhanced returns. It has not affected the price of local products, at any rate, and Mr. WILLIS suggests that "the marked development of the export trade is due to more permanent causes." Swatow, of course, directly taps the trade of the important cities, Chaochoufu and Sanhopa, and its history affords a typical illustration of the immense commercial fields that must be still lying fallow in China for lack of adequate communication with the outside world.

Cotton imports to Swatow increased from £270,695 worth in 1903 to £287,403 last year; not a big increase, perhaps, but decidedly satisfactory in view of the fact that the high prices ruling must have checked the demand, and that Shanghai has taken away much of Chaochoufu's indigo dyeing industry. Indian yarn worth £526,554 was imported, and only £2,994 worth of British. The latter was a drop from £9,254 in 1903; but Indian had increased much more than correspondingly; and here again in view of the higher prices, the symptoms of a healthy, growing demand afford grounds for satisfaction. Mr. WILLIS notes that opium imports are generally regarded as an index to the prosperity of a district, and as the prosperity was very much in evidence, he considered it "somewhat curious" that there should be a decline in the value of foreign opium imported. In 1903 were imported 785,473 lbs. worth £575,650; last year it was only 646,555 lbs., worth £475,363. The falling off was in Malwa; he admits that Patna and Benares showed a "considerable advance" (together 371,040 lbs. in 1903 as against 523,048 lbs. last year); and as the imports of the native drug rose from 79,599 lbs. in 1903 to 199,518 lbs. last year, it is evident that as an index of the prevailing prosperity, the consumption of this luxury shows no inconsistency. It shows, perhaps, that the Chinese Government's alleged restrictions upon the production of the native drug have not been so rigorously made as the missionaries were led to hope. The increased consumption of certain kinds of foreign opium is doubtless explained by the following paragraph from the report: "The manufacture of prepared opium by mixing the foreign with the native drug is a large and flourishing industry in this district, and it would seem that the boiling shops are attempting to dispense with the more expensive Malwa opium in favour of the cheaper varieties." The number of emigrating coolies has decreased to the normal quantity of about 100,000 annually, due, the Acting-Consul thinks, to the increase of rates consequent on the incorporation of the Rickmers' steamers in the N.D.L. fleet, and the withdrawal of the British India boats. The general prosperity would also account, we imagine, for some reduction. None of these emigrants were for South Africa, by-the-way. The withdrawal of the British India line, and the sale of the Douglas S. S. Company's steamers, accounted for the decrease in British shipping, which still, however, heads the list by a brave margin. We conclude with an interesting extract from the report, which speaks for itself:—

"The concession for the long-mooted railway between this port and Chaochoufu has been, as mentioned in my preceding report, granted to one Chang Yüan, a Chinese merchant who has for many years been resident

in the Dutch Indies. The contract for building the line, which is to be 32 miles in length, with seven intermediate stations, and for the supply of rolling-stock, was given by the concessionnaire to a Japanese syndicate. Work on the line commenced in September last, but, owing to the marshy nature of the ground in the vicinity of Swatow, proceeded but slowly, until in January, 1905, it was delayed for some three months by an unfortunate outbreak at Anpo, a market town of considerable size about 10 miles distant from Swatow, in which two Japanese workmen were killed and the property of several Chinese in the employ of the railway company, together with some railway material, destroyed. The matter is now settled and work is resumed, the concessionnaires having been required by the Viceroy to provide 200 guards for the railway.

The Chaochoufu prefecture, more especially as regards the Kityang and Lufeng districts, still continues in its state of chronic disorder, and it would appear that the local authorities have not sufficient force at their disposal to maintain order.

In Swatow itself a police force of some 300 men has been recently enrolled, the cost of which is paid by voluntary subscriptions."

CANALS.

(Daily Press 30th September.)

The saying about the whirligig of time and its revenges will be brought to mind by a recent English proposal to revive canal traffic. After the STEVENSONS had astonished the public with their steam carriages, and time showed that they were not mere toys, the fickle world made haste to be off with the old love—the stage-coach, so dear still to the romancer; and with the stage-coach went the canal barges and boats. The canals of England are now for the most part stagnant ditches. Within the last two months, the Woking, Aldershot, and Basingstoke Canal was sold to a private purchaser for a comparatively small sum. The canal company is no more; and this is where we, close neighbours of a vast Empire to which its canals are at present the national vascular system, may note the presence of the whirligig. Rapid transit. That is what we keep telling China she needs, if her commercial life is ever to be quickened, and her natural prosperity afforded room for development. For the Chinese road for all traffic is still, as it has been from time immemorial, on the water. The path of the passenger from one distant place to another, and of produce and merchandise, lies on that slow but easy medium. There are those who look forward to the time when all China will be covered with a network of rails as thickly as is England; and who say, as the soap advertisement says of the striving infant, that she won't be happy still she gets it. Yet even now, after practically two centuries of railways, there are those who believe, as the *Times* says, "that the industries of the country would be more thriving than they are, that cost of production and transport would have been sensibly diminished, if canal communication had been developed." Their idea is that the British Parliament should devote greater attention to proposals for improving existing canals and making new ones, to form a chain of water-ways between the principal ports. Our Hamburg correspondent has more than once referred to Germany and the enterprising canal service there; and these modern agitators want to see England with as fine a system. Water carriage, they say, is the cheapest possible; and it is this attention to what the English have treated with neglect which, in their opinion, has conduced to the notable industrial progress of Germany. It is different there, of course; the Elbe, the Weser, and the Rhine have to

open up wider areas than England can boast; while no English producing centre can be more than a few hours away from its nearest port. Railway companies have no love for canals, naturally, and we may at once discount the theory that "the degree in which canal communication becomes subordinate is the exact measure of the efficiency of the railway system of a country." An efficient railway system is one that provides a tariff possible to all who must use it; and there is not the slightest doubt that there are English industries, chiefly agri- or horticultural, to which the excessive railway rates are fatally prohibitive. The unprejudiced critic in England will welcome anything, canals or road motors, that is likely to impose a check upon the ridiculous railway rates in vogue in some parts of the country; but to talk seriously of developing the canal traffic on a wholesale scale will not tickle the groundlings, because it sounds so much like putting back the hands of the clock. In China, when it comes to a rivalry between railways and waterways, we will perhaps see "old custom" fighting on the side of progress. For the ease with which tariff barriers can be put across canals and rivers is the great hindrance to water transit in China; and it is these which are probably helping to overcome the natural prejudice against the fire carriage of the foreign devil.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

27th September.

We have no seismological experts, I believe, in Hongkong, though something has been mentioned about "seismographs" being lent by Hongkong to Macao. It would be interesting to have some explanation offered by an expert as to the origin of the recent earth tremors in the neighbourhood of the Canton delta. They have been so numerous during the last month or two—especially at Macao—that the people have almost ceased to be alarmed. I have been wondering whether the shocks may not be explained as were a series of similar shocks in Kobe a few years ago. The people of Kobe were periodically frightened by ominous noises in the bowels of the earth followed by tremors which were particularly terrifying to the residents at the summer resort on the top of the hills which correspond to our Peak. Experts offered the explanation that deep down in the bowels of the earth were gigantic caverns or passages, which were falling in and these subsidences produced both the noise and vibration. At Macao it has been noticed that the tremors are preceded by subterranean noises like thunder, and it suggests to my mind that their origin may be similar to that of the Kobe "shocks" of six or seven years ago.

How, why and wherefore is it that the Sporting Clubs of the Colony have not called a public indignation meeting to protest against the reference to sport in the speech delivered by the Hon. Mr. Robert Shewan at the last meeting of the Legislative Council? Perhaps the men "who dream all day of polo ponies, cricket matches and boat races" do not find the time to read long speeches, so for their benefit I will quote the passage in this short note. Mr. Shewan said:

"I am quite in agreement with Mr. Kipling, and do not think in this colony Sport requires any encouragement. If our young men were but to serve their masters as diligently as they serve their god 'Sport,' we should not see the British slowly driven out of the trade of China by the hard-working German, thrifty Japanese and the untiring Chinese. In trade and commerce to-day the race is to the man who gives himself entirely up to it, and who, like St. Paul, has put away childish things. We shall never regain our old position in the Far East by encouraging our men to dream all day of polo ponies, cricket matches, and boat races."

Did the Hon. Member representing the Chamber of Commerce speak from conviction, or were the observations made purely in the Pickwickian sense? I ask the question because at the time the speech was being delivered the V. C. Aquatic Sports were taking place in the harbour and I noticed the name of the Hon. Mr. Robert Shewan among the donors of prizes!

The remarks of Mr. Shewan are, however, deserving of serious attention. Are the British really being slowly driven out of the trade of China? Has not the value of British trade with China been constantly on the increase? Mr. Shewan I fancy, would not content that "our old position in the Far East" was gained because the British youth of former days did not go in so much for sport. My impression, gathered mainly from books, has been that though there was not so much glorification of sport as there is in the Colony to-day, the average Colonial devoted far more time to his recreations than does the man of to-day. The British had no competition in those days and now there is competition and plenty of it, and I think the British are learning the truth that "in trade and commerce to-day the race is to the man who gives himself entirely up to it."

The question of the registration of partners in Chinese firms is an old one in this colony and has been discussed in Singapore and Penang, and probably wherever else there is a Chinese community having commercial relations with Europeans. A memorandum by Mr. Stewart Lockhart, ex Colonial Secretary, which was published four or five years ago tells us that the question was raised as far back as 1874 when the Chinese community petitioned for some system of registration of Chinese partners, "and ever since that year the question has been re-opened at intervals, but has always been allowed to drop." In 1901 the Government appointed a committee to inquire into the question, and the committee unanimously decided (though for different reasons) that it would be inadvisable to introduce a Bill for the Registration of Partners in Chinese firms. The general ground for such a decision was that it would be impracticable to give due effect to such legislation. Since then the evils of the want of some system have constantly been shown in the Supreme Court, and it will not have been forgotten that Sir William Goodman, at the close of his term as Chief Justice, strongly urged the need for legislation in this connection. The evil is acknowledged, but the means of correcting it have long been in dispute. As H. E. the Governor is apparently willing to consider a definite statement from the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber will no doubt consider the subject again in the light of the experiences of the last five years.

Yesterday at the Police Court two or three building contractors were fined \$250 each for using mortar which was not up to the standard required by the Public Works Department. I may be mistaken, but I think these are the first prosecutions of this kind that have taken place in the Colony. Two or three years ago official inquiries were held into a series of building collapses leading to the death of thirty human beings. No censure was attached to anyone but the inquiries proved what was before very strongly felt, that the whole system of building supervision in Hongkong had in the past been wrong, and if the result of the inquiries did not call for the "hanging" of any person, they certainly called for the hanging of the system. Now, it appears the P.W.D. have a standard tensile strength for mortar, and it is the duty of the building inspectors to take samples of mortar used on work going on in the Colony and submit it to the test. This ought to put an end to jerry-building.

BANYAN.

The boycott's death in Shanghai was indubitably proved in Shanghai on Sept. 15, when the Standard Oil Company sold forty thousand cases of kerosene oil in open market, the first sale of the kind since the boycott began on the 20th of July last.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber on Sept. 28. Present:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MAJOR SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.
HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL VILHJELM H. TTON, C.B. (Commanding the Troops).
Hon. Mr. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. SIR H. S. BERKELEY, K.C. (Attorney General).
Hon. Mr. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).
Hon. Mr. BASIL H. TAYLOR, R.N. (Harbour Master).
Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).
Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN.
Hon. SIR C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.
Hon. DR. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.
Hon. MR. GERSHOM STEWART.
Hon. MR. WEI YUK.
Hon. MR. C. W. DICKSON.
MR. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table financial minutes 40 to 42 and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the adoption of the report of the Finance Committee, No. 8, and stated that an addition had been made to that report.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—It will be within the recollection of members of the Council that the Appropriation Bill was referred to the Finance Committee last week, after its second reading, to be reported upon. As Chairman of that Committee I beg to certify that the Bill was considered clause by clause in the presence of all the members, and that in the opinion of the Committee the Bill might be dealt with by the Council as a Bill dealt with by a committee of the whole Council. As there was no material alteration in the Bill I beg to propose, in the absence of any objection, the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Five million seven hundred and seventeen thousand two hundred and seventy-six Dollars to the Public Service of the year 1906.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCY—In asking you, gentlemen, to vote the third reading of the Appropriation Bill—I trust unanimously—I will renew my assurance that that vote will not be considered as committing you to accept the principle of the transfer of the Widows and Orphan's Fund to the Government. As I have not yet been able to obtain the views on the subject of the Widows and Orphan's Pension Fund Bill of certain gentlemen interested in the funds to whom I have referred, I am not prepared to proceed with it this afternoon. There is one other point I would like to mention this afternoon as I dealt with it in my remarks introducing the Appropriation Bill. I then informed you that I was in hopes that the question of military lands, which had been under discussion since the date of the cession of Kowloon, was approaching settlement. I have now pleasure in informing you that, by the last mail, I received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies a dispatch in which he informs me that the proposals put forward by His Excellency the General Officer Commanding and myself, as a fair and equitable solution of this matter, had been accepted by the Colonial Office, the War Office and the Lord Commissioners of the Treasury (applause). The correspondence on the subject is largely confidential, but I am asking the Secretary of State to allow me to lay papers containing this

correspondence on the table of this Council (hear hear).

The motion was then agreed to.

On the motion of His Excellency the Bill was passed.

NEW TERRITORIES LAND ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the New Territories Land Ordinance, 1905.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

On the motion of His Excellency the Bill was passed.

Maintenance of Married Women.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill to provide for the maintenance of married women deserted by their husbands.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

On the motion of His Excellency the Bill was passed.

THE PEAK TRAMWAY.

The HON. SIE. PAUL CHATER moved that the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance for authorizing the Construction of a Tramway within the Colony of Hongkong, be adjourned till the next meeting of the Council.

His EXCELLENCY—I do not think that a motion is necessary. This Bill and the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund Bill stand adjourned till a future meeting.

The Council was adjourned till after the meeting of the Finance Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held then, the Colonial Secretary presiding.

The following votes were approved:—

FIRE BRIGADE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One thousand dollars (\$1,000) in aid of the vote, Police, Sub-Department, Fire Brigade—Other charges, repairs to engines, hose, etc, for the yearly overhaul and repairs of the Floating Fire Engine.

THE GAOL.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Two thousand and six hundred dollars (\$2,600) in aid of the vote, Gaol—Other Charges, for the following items:—

Incidental expenses \$1,000
Provisions for prisoners 1,600

Total \$2,600

POLICE.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Five thousand one hundred and sixty dollars (\$5,160) in aid of the vote, Police—Other charges, for the following items:—

Incidental expenses \$900
Meals for prisoners in cells 200
Office Furniture 60
Passages, and Conuses in lieu of Passages 4,000

Total \$5,160

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

On the Council resuming,

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said—I beg to report that the financial minutes Nos 40 to 42 have been considered by the Finance Committee and that the recommendations have been approved. I beg to move that the report be adopted.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was agreed to.

His EXCELLENCY—The Council is adjourned sine die.

How easily a scare can be worked up was exemplified the other night when a young man, with excitement written on his face, rushed into an on-duty police station and demanded to see the inspector. That official was roused from his slumbers, and on coming downstairs was confronted by the young man, holding in his outstretched hands a Chinese document. "Look at this," he declared, "my mother and I may be murdered in our beds." The officer glanced at the paper and a read that the characters might have some sinister import. Accordingly, the Chinese interpreter was called, and their feelings may be imagined when he read out to them the following words written by the house boy for the benefit of the night visitor "When come knock loud; call No. 4."

LOCAL SPORTS.

V.R.C. AQUATICS.

SECOND DAY.

In propitious weather the events on the second day's programme of the Club's sports were contested. Albert Ellis was the winner of the boys' race, covering the two lengths in 55 1/5 seconds. Jas. Witchell was again to the fore in the 200 yards swim for the championship of the colony, beating Alves by about three lengths in the last length. C. E. Harrop took the first prize for the running header from the spring board, his excellence in form, distance, entry and recovery, being adjudged the best. The one length three legged race, with bindings approved by the committee was won by E. Humphreys and J. Witchell. In the punting contest M. A. Razaack covered a distance of 67 feet 9 inches, beating the second man, J. Witchell, by four feet, three inches.

Result of events were as under:—

HURDLE RACE. Two lengths handicap, four hurdles. First and second in each heat to swim in final.

First heat—C. F. Ozorio, 1; P. M. Remedios, 2. Other starters were, C. E. Harrop and J. Witchell. Time, 54 seconds.

Second Heat—J. W. Bains, 1; A. H. Carroll, 2. Other starters—J. M. Pereira, R. C. Witchell, H. C. Sayer. Time, 52 3/5 seconds.

RACE FOR BOYS from 12 to 15 years of age. Two lengths handicap. Sons or brothers of members only admitted.

Albert Ellis 1
H. Livesay 2
I. Ellis 3

Time 55-1/5 seconds.

CHAMPIONSHIP of the Colony, 200 yards. Six lengths. Open to all comers.

J. Witchell 1
N. Alves 2
J. M. Pereira 0

The swimmers kept well together for the first two lengths but in the third length Pereira gave up after covering about half the distance. Victory again rested between Alves and Witchell, but the latter's splendid form was displayed as he gradually drew ahead of his contestant as they approached the winning post. Time 2 min. 42 secs.

RUNNING HEADER from Spring Board.

C. E. Harrop 1
J. Witchell 2

Other competitors were M. A. Razaack, M. A. Figueiredo, J. H. Hance, M. A. Souza and F. W. White.

THREE LEGGED RACE of one length. Bindings as approved by committee.

E. Humphreys and J. Witchell ... 1
P. M. Remedios and A. V. Barros ... 2
J. Pereira and A. H. Carroll, H. C. Sayer, and M. A. Souza, J. H. Hance and H. S. Holmes were the other competitors.

PLUNGING. Three trials.

M. A. Razaack, 67 ft. 9 in. ... 1
J. Witchell 63 ft. 6 in. ... 2

Other competitors were M. A. Figueiredo, J. H. Hance, H. S. Holmes, R. C. Witchell, A. M. Soares and F. M. Pereira.

FOUR LENGTHS HANDICAP. First and second in each heat to start in to-day's final.

First heat—J. H. Hance, 1; J. Witchell, 2. Other starters—J. W. Bains, C. F. Ozorio, H. A. Lammert and H. C. Sayer. Time, 1.51.2/5.

Second heat—N. H. Alves, 1; A. V. Barros, 2. Other competitors were C. M. Alves, H. S. Holmes and J. M. Pereira.

ANNUAL AQUATIC SPORTS.

The annual aquatic sports organized by the Victoria Recreation Club were brought to a successful conclusion on the 23rd September when, being ladies' day, a large concourse, including many of the gentler sex, assembled on the stands and on launches to witness an interesting programme which gave ample opportunity for a wide display of natatory attainments. The afternoon was ideal in respect of weather, and the pleasure of the company was much enhanced by the selections discoursed by the band of the 2nd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment. The Governor and party were present and the undertaking certainly showed no lack of patronage. The sports themselves were up to the average

in point of merit, and some good exhibitions were given, especially in the 100 yards swimming championship and in the high dive. J. Witchell was as usual a conspicuous competitor and added greatly to his already long list of successes in several events. Results are appended:

HURDLE RACE, handicap, Final.

J. W. Bains 1
C. F. Ozorio 2

Bains, who started at 11, soon shot ahead and finished comfortably, though he was a good race among the other three for second position.

HIGH DIVE.

C. E. V. Harrop 1
M. A. Figueiredo 2

Figueiredo made one good dive, but Harrop had the better all-round display.

TWO LENGTHS HANDICAP, Final.

J. H. R. Hance 1
J. A. S. Alves 2

41 1/2 secs.

The six competitors provided a good race. At one time Lammert looked like winning, but Hance put on a spurt at the finish and won by about a neck from Alves.

BOYS' RACE, under 12 years of age. Two lengths handicap. Sons or brothers of members only.

Donald Logan 1
L. Souza 2

Logan's was a popular win. He went at a steady pace all the distance. C. Lopez started off very speedily but he could not keep up the pace and dropped out.

CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE CLUB (100 yards).

J. Witchell 1
N. Alves 2

A close contest, but the victory was seen to rest with Witchell when he had covered the first length, though followed pluckily by Alves.

GREASY POLE.

J. Witchell 1

This competition evoked great amusement. H. W. Sayer got the flag at the first try, but Witchell made four attempts before he could secure it. On competing again to decide the tie, Witchell reached the end rather cleverly, while his rival failed.

FOUR LENGTHS HANDICAP. Final.

J. H. R. Hance 1
A. V. Barros 2

A keen contest, and a close finish.

CONSOLATION RACE, two lengths.

H. A. Lammert 1
H. C. Sayer 2

The four competitors were fairly equal, but Lammert made an exceptionally good finish.

WATER POLO, between teams of seven. Blue team captained by J. Witchell beat White team captained by R. C. Witchell by 2 goals to 0. White shaped better in the first half but looked in too long, and failed in shooting for goal. Witchell scored for his side by a stinging shot delivered half way down the play. Half time Blue 1, White 0. On resuming, Humphreys beat Lammert a second time, this advantage being through the failure to tackle on the part of the opposing forwards. Mr. Meek acted as referee.

The sports were well managed by the following officials: Judges: Mr. E. W. Mitchell, Lt. G. B. Macdonald, R.G.A., Mr. A. Rodger, Mr. T. Meek; Referee, Mr. Arthur Chapman; Starters, Messrs. G. A. Caldwell, and W. Armstrong; Handicappers, Messrs. L. Meek and J. H. R. Hance; Official Time-keepers, Messrs. E. M. Hazland and W. A. C. Ake.

At the close the prizes were distributed to the successful competitors by Mrs. Dicken, who was afterwards presented by Mr. A. Chapman, the chairman of the club, with a beautiful bouquet and accorded a hearty vote of thanks for her services.

A Shanghai "Pundered Griffin" alleges that his greatest grievance is against the retail soap-keeper. He says: I have to pay 75 cents to a chemist where I should do a home, and a comparison of my bill with certain London price lists shows me that pretty well everything else is in like proportion. Insurance, freight and Customs dues cost them nothing like 20 per cent. why then do they want two or three hundred per cent profit? Thank goodness, there seems to be some competition coming at last, which I hope will shake a few of these comfortable old monopolists out.

HONGKONG CRICKET LEAGUE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong Cricket Club was held last evening in the Colonial Secretary's office. The Hon. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, president, occupied the chair and the others present were: Mr. A. E. Asger, hon. secretary and treasurer, representing the Craigenower Club; Mr. T. C. Gray, Hongkong C.C.; Mr. L. E. Brett, Hongkong C.C.C.; Sapper Mann, Royal Engineers C.C.; Sergeant Major Wilson, R.A.M.C.; Inspector Withers, Hongkong Police C.C.

REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.

The PRESIDENT, in opening the proceedings said that the annual meeting of the Committee of the League was held for the purpose of electing office-bearers for the ensuing season and passing the report and balance sheet for the past season. The report and accounts had been in their hands for some days, and he would adopt the usual course of accepting them as having been read. The accounts showed a balance of \$11.67 as against \$6.54 the previous season. They were thus a little better off than before, but their object was not to have a big balance. So long as they had a balance on the right side they would be satisfied (Hear, hear). If no gentleman had any remarks to make, he would propose that the report be adopted and the accounts passed.

Mr. BRETT seconded, and the proposition was carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS.

The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with.

Mr. T. C. GRAY proposed and Inspector WITHERS seconded the re-election of the Hon. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith as president. This was carried, and Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH said he would be very glad to serve again as president.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT seconded by Staff Sergeant WILSON, Mr. W. D. Braidwood was re-elected vice-president.

The PRESIDENT proposed that Mr. A. E. Asger be asked to serve as treasurer and secretary, and included in the motion a vote of thanks to that gentleman for his untiring and successful efforts during the past season.

Mr. BRETT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. ASGER in reply said he would be glad to do what he could for the league.

ALTERATION OF RULES.

The PRESIDENT referred to rule 13 which, he said, had been drawn up before Zone time came into force in the colony. Zone time gave another 20 minutes, and he would propose that the rule be altered so that in the event of no definite result being arrived at, play should continue for a quarter of an hour in each of the stated times.

This was approved.

The PRESIDENT alluded to rules 6 and 13 and said they might communicate to the club something in the following terms,—

The League Committee offer for the serious consideration of the clubs in the League the following suggestions which they will be glad to see acted upon: (1) That rule 6 should be strictly adhered to in spirit as well as in form; (2) That those who officiate as umpires at any matches could not be members of clubs contesting that match. If this cannot be arranged a player should on no account officiate as umpire.

It was decided that the secretary would communicate the suggestions to the clubs interested.

Mr. BRETT brought up the question of officers of the army or navy, paying for civilian teams. Clubs entered for the League were practically second class players, and if an officer was invited to play he was generally a good player.

The PRESIDENT was in sympathy with the speaker, but he did not see how they could prevent it.

Mr. BRETT suggested a rule forbidding it.

The PRESIDENT considered that would be too drastic.

It was, however, decided that that question, together with consideration of a proposal to empower the Committee to make alterations or additions to the rules, should come up at the adjourned meeting to be held on 3rd October.

Clubs wishing to enter the League should note that application should be sent to the Secretary before the 30th inst.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

The following is the report of the committee for the season 1904-05:—

The Committee have pleasure in presenting the annual report. The Treasurer's account of income and expenditure shows a surplus of \$37.71, which has been added to the Reserve Account. Owing to the heavy expenditure on account of re-turfing and extension of the ground amounting together to \$2,635.43, the Committee regret being unable to redeem debentures to the extent of \$1,000 as anticipated. Debenture interest amounting to \$904.73 was paid on the 1st instant. Shanghai and Singapore in response to the last report sent teams to Hongkong in November last. Hongkong defeated Shanghai by three runs and three wickets. Singapore defeated Hongkong by 95 runs. Singapore also defeated Shanghai. During the Chinese New Year Holidays a team was sent to Swatow at the invitation of the Swatow Cricket Club. Two matches were played both of which Hongkong won. The thanks of the club are due to the Swatow community for the generous hospitality extended to our representatives during their visit. Mr. T. E. Pearce heads the batting averages with 30, and Mr. G. E. Morrell first in bowling with an average of 13.18. The highest score, 113, was made by Mr. T. E. Pearce against the team selected to play in Swatow. The Club played nine cricket matches of which three were won, two lost, and four drawn. There were also played other matches such as Hills v. Plains, etc. The Hongkong Cricket Club League Team played 17 matches, of which 10 were won, 3 lost, and 4 drawn. The team again took fourth place in the League competition. The new pavilion was occupied in November last, and the extension on the North side of the Cricket Ground is now completed. The annual lawn tennis match against the Ladies' Recreation Club was played on 27th May and resulted in a win for the Hongkong Cricket Club. The annual lawn tennis tournament was played in April and May. The championship was won by Mr. H. Pinckney with Mr. Hancock second; the "A" Class Singles Handicap by Mr. H. Pinckney, Mr. R. F. C. Master second; the "B" Class Singles Handicap by Mr. C. H. Falloon, Mr. R. E. O. Bird second. Messrs P. K. Knyvett and R. B. Beattie were first in the Doubles Handicap and Messrs. E. Ormiston and H. R. Phelps second. Messrs. A. Boyd and R. Macpherson won the Professional Pairs. Mr. H. R. Phelps and Hon. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith were second. The annual racquets tournament was played in May, Mr. H. Hancock again won the Championship and also the Singles Handicap, and, with Lieut. Chesney, R.E., the Doubles Handicap. The thanks of the club are due to the officers of H. M. Navy and Army who kindly lent their bands to Messrs. J. W. Bains, P. W. Goldring and T. C. Gray for making out the cricket averages, to Mr. H. A. MacIntyre for auditing the accounts, and to those gentlemen who served on the Entertainment Committee and also those who kindly subscribed towards the Guarantee Fund in connection with the visit of the Shanghai and Singapore Teams. Mr. Lowe was granted leave of absence on his departure for home on furlough. Mr. J. E. Bingham (Lowe and Bingham) was appointed to act as Secretary and Treasurer during Mr. Lowe's absence. During the year 15 new members joined the club. The total number of members is now 55 and there are 86 Naval subscribers.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of members was held in the Cricket Ground Pavilion on September 26th. Mr. E. W. Mitchell presided and there were also present: Hon. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Messrs. H. Phelps, H. Hancock, C. H. Kew, T. C. Gray, R. A. O. Bird, H. G. C. Bailey, G. Hastings, J. Hooper, J. A. Jupp, D. Wood, W. C. Turner, T. E. Bingham and others.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, there are one or two matters I should like to remark upon

which are not mentioned in the report. In the first place, the hearty thanks of the club are due to the community of this Colony, from His Excellency the Governor downwards, who did so much to entertain the teams from Shanghai and Singapore last November. Without the hearty co-operation of the residents of this Colony, I am afraid our visitors would have had a poor time of it. This Colony has always been, and I hope always will be, a sporting one in the true sense of the word. One of our legislators in the Council Chamber the other day spoke rather slightly of sport but, if I wanted to get a prize or subscription for any branch of sport, I know I should have a sure find in the Hon. Mr. Robert Shewan (laughter and applause). We received a challenge to send a team to Shanghai in September or October this year, but your Committee were unable to get together a representative team and we, therefore, had to decline the invitation. More attention than usual has been given during the off season to the ground and I think you will agree with me it is looking in capital order, especially when we remember how worn it was at the end of May this year. This is entirely due to the care and attention given it by a special committee consisting of Col. Aitken, Messrs. Phelps, H. Hancock and Bingham, to whom our best thanks are due (applause). One question that is bothering me is that of the bar. The amount of time and labour wasted over collecting chits and making out bills for same is something appalling and, if the club is to continue running it, I am of opinion a cash system is the only possible basis on which it can be run. Many men say they don't carry money about, but I myself, since we have taken on the playing of that game of dominoes have always got some four or five of these (holding out some dollars) in my pocket (Laughter). There is the alternation of letting it out to some Chinaman and getting cheap liquors out of bottles with good labels on them, but everyone would be poisoned. I should be glad of any expression of opinion under this head later on as it will be a guide to the Committee you will shortly be called upon to elect. The ground, gentlemen, will be open for practice on Monday, 2nd October, and the first match will be played on the 7th—the First XI. versus Twenty-two others. Mr. Smith has kindly consented to captain the Twenty-two. I should like those who can play to signify their intention in the book; it will help the sub-committee. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be glad to hear any remarks made by members or to answer any questions.

No questions were asked and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts as presented by the committee.

Hon. Mr. T. S. SMITH seconded the motion, which was carried.

Hon. Mr. SMITH proposed the re-election of Mr. Mitchell as president.

Mr. BIRD seconded, and the proposition was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. MITCHELL briefly returned thanks for his re-election.

The ballot for members of committee resulted in the following being elected:—Major Chichester, H. Hancock, Phelps, W. C. Turner, P. W. Goldring, Aitken, R. E. O. Bird and Hon. Mr. T. S. Smith.

The CHAIRMAN—Has any member any suggestion to bring forward?

Mr. SMITH—I think the bar should be run on a cash basis, but that "Tadpole" should be allowed to accept chits from gentlemen whom he knows well. At the same time, as a check on the takings, I would suggest that a person who has a drink and pays for it should sign a chit, writing the amount paid on it. I should also like to refer to the League. I think the list of members who are debarred from play should be extended and scrutinised from time to time because I think it is obviously unfair that Mr. Morrell, who has come out with the top average and Mr. Mackay who has come out fourth, should play for the "A" team of the club. I also think it would be far better if the older system were reverted to, namely that ten innings and an over instead of eight should count for averages in local batting and bowling. As a number of innings, the bowling averages have not been given. I would suggest their adoption in future reports.

Mr. MITCHELL—I don't think there is much use of signing chits and at the same time paying cash, but I am glad Mr. Smith agrees with me that the cash system is the better. With regard to averages, that is a rule of the club, and a special meeting would be necessary to alter that rule. I think it is very hard lines on Dixon, both in batting and bowling, that he should come second.

Mr. KEW—With reference to Mr. Smith's remarks regarding members who should play in the club's first team, what about the other members of the club who play for Kowloon and other teams?

The CHAIRMAN—We cannot make out the list of other club's players.

Mr. KEW—But cannot we legislate against them playing for other clubs.

The CHAIRMAN—You had better see the club about that.

Mr. SMITH—I am afraid we have no jurisdiction in the matter.

Mr. IRVINE—I would suggest to the incoming committee that the bowling and batting averages of league teams should be included in the report for the year.

The CHAIRMAN—I am afraid we should have great difficulty in getting the averages especially of the "A" team. Sometimes they don't score at all (laughter). I don't mean in runs, but they don't score in the book. The incoming committee will no doubt note your remarks, and see what they can do towards giving the averages more publicity.

Further discussion followed as to the mode of running the bar, but no fresh decision was arrived at when the meeting terminated.

CRAIGENGOWER CRICKET CLUB.

The annual general meeting of members of this club was held at the match-d, Happy Valley, on September 28th. Mr. W. D. Braidwood (president) presided, and there were also present Messrs. A. E. Asger (secretary), M. E. Asger, H. C. Mack, L. Lammert, J. Pestonji, J. W. Stewart, W. Allen, R. Basa, R. Cooper, A. Ahmed, J. Basa, R. Rosa, L. A. Rosa, and J. Toppin.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the PRESIDENT said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your hands for sometime, and so far as I can see there is very little in them that calls for remark. Last season was a very successful one indeed, and members have every reason to congratulate themselves on having done so well (applause). I only hope our success this year will be equal to that of last, and that we shall succeed in retaining the shield we won. In the matter of finance, gentlemen, you will see that notwithstanding the fact that the extension to the pavilion was carried out at a cost of \$300, we have still a considerable sum at credit balance—\$174.97. In addition to that you will see that there are on standing chits amounting to \$61.73. Now, taken altogether, \$128 has been taken from the funds as a contribution towards the extension of the Pavilion. The club has in hand, however, something over \$300 at the present time; that, gentlemen, I think is a subject for congratulation. I don't think there is anything more to say, but shall be glad to answer any questions asked before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts.

No questions were asked and the PRESIDENT proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. M. E. ASGER seconded the proposition, which was agreed to.

Mr. A. E. ASGER proposed the re-election of Mr. Braidwood as president.

Mr. LAMMERT seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mr. BRAIDWOOD—I thank you, gentlemen, and as in former years I shall do my utmost to promote the welfare of the club (applause).

The PRESIDENT proposed that Mr. A. E. Asger be re-elected secretary. For many years he had devoted a large portion of his time and attention to the interests of the Club, and a better secretary it would be impossible to get (hear, hear). We are indebted to him for the energetic and able manner in which he has conducted his duties in the past and can only show our appreciation of his efforts by re-electing him unanimously (applause).

Mr. LAMMERT seconded the motion, and the election was unanimous.

Mr. ASGER in returning thanks said he would always put forth his best endeavours in the interests of the club.

Mr. M. E. ASGER moved and Mr. R. BASA seconded, that the retiring treasurer, Mr. G. Rapp, be re-elected. Carried.

Mr. R. BASA moved that Mr. Lammert be re-elected captain.

Mr. R. PESTONJI seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. M. E. Asger was appointed vice-captain on the motion of Mr. COOPER seconded by Mr. J. PESTONJI.

The following committee were elected by ballot:—M. E. Asger, R. Basa, A. O. Brawn, L. A. Rosa and J. Toppin.

The annual report was as follows:—The committee have great pleasure in presenting their report for the season 1904-05, which was a most successful one. The club, relying on practically the same team as in the previous season, again entered for the League competition, and still succeeded in winning the Shield. The number of matches played was 18, of which 12 were won, 2 drawn and 4 lost. (Points 33.)

The members held a very successful "At Home" on the 6th May last, when a hletic sports of an entertaining nature were provided. On this occasion the League shield and medals were presented to the team by the Hon. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, the President of the League, to whom the thanks of the club are due, as also to Mrs. Braidwood for presenting the club and sports' prizes.

LAWN TENNIS.—Lawn Tennis was resumed in the summer. Entries for the competition showed no falling off and great interest was evinced in the various events. The Scratch Singles was won by Mr. F. Rapp and the Final in the Doubles Handicap will be played off in a few days.

MEMBERSHIP.—The roll of members during the season reached 65.

FINANCE.—The total receipts amounted to \$1,503.89 and expenditure \$1,328.92 leaving a balance in hand of \$174.97.

THE PAVILION.—At the last annual meeting it was thought desirable to extend the pavilion, and this extension was very satisfactorily carried out at a cost of \$300, of which \$172 were subscribed by members, the balance being drawn from the club funds.

GEAR.—The gear in hand is in good order and additional goods are in transit.

Mr. A. O. Brawn heads the list of batting averages with 18.58, Mr. R. Basa, 17.66, being a close second. Mr. Brawn, having the highest average for two successive seasons, becomes the winner of the B Lillys cup.

Mr. R. Pestonji has the best bowling analysis, having captured 56 wickets at 7.32 runs.

The committee desire to tender to the president their thanks for his usual prizes.

The annual general meeting will be held in the pavilion on Thursday, the 28th September, at 5.30 p.m.—A. E. ASGER, hon. secretary—The accounts, presented by Mr. G. Rapp, hon. treasurer, show a balance in hand of \$174.97.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The annual meeting of members of this club was held at the Hongkong Hotel on Friday afternoon.

Mr. F. BROWNE, chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts stated that the Rugby team had done very well in the large number of games played, and this was in a great measure due to their energetic captain, Mr. H. F. Chard (applause).—There was every prospect of this section continuing its good work. A large number of matches had also been played by the association team, but they had not been so successful in the matter of wins. Still, they could not always be expected to win, and they could congratulate their opponents on being a little better than themselves. They had gained some very useful experience even in their defeats, and this would serve them well for the coming season. The club had not been sufficiently successful to win the shield; as they had not been for a number of years, but the shield had fallen

into very good hands (hear, hear). The members of the Hongkong Football Club had always been ready to assist the executive in every way, and it was most creditable that when a new pavilion and dressing room was wanted, they came forward so rapidly and subscribed practically the whole amount required. Thanks were due to Mr. C. H. Gale for all he had done in connection with the pavilion (hear, hear) and also the hon. secretary, Mr. Crofton (hear, hear). The grand stand, as usual, had been blown down (laughter), and, as usual, the order had been given to put it up (more laughter). The thanks of the members were due to the two captains Mr. H. F. Chard and Mr. W. H. Williams, to the hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Boyd, to the hon. secretary, Mr. Crofton, and to the Committee, for all their efforts (applause). They deserved the gratitude of the members for their work in arranging all the matches, and providing useful outdoor recreation, which enabled players to keep in good health and thereby do their work efficiently; and in enabling men who had come to a strange country to form those friendships and companionships without which life in this Colony would be unbearable; and also in providing many hours of happiness for the crowds of spectators (applause).

Mr. E. F. AUCOTT seconded the proposition, which was carried.

The following officers were then elected:—President, Mr. F. Browne; captain of rugby team, Mr. H. F. Chard; captain of association team, Mr. H. C. Gray; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S. Henceman; Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. H. Crofton; Committee, Messrs. J. W. C. Bonnar, T. E. Pearce, J. D. Bauman, R. N. P. W. Goldring, and G. B. Macdonald, R. G. A.

With reference to rule 17 of the Club's rules, Mr. R. MACPHERSON proposed that it be altered to read as follows—"All teams for Association matches shall be selected by a sub-committee of three members appointed by the General Committee, this sub-committee to be known as the 'Match Committee.' The captain of the team shall form one of this sub-committee."

Mr. E. F. AUCOTT seconded the proposition and there followed a discussion wherein it was contended that it was not sufficient for the selection of teams to be merely announced in the newspapers, and that it was advisable that the responsibility of selection should rest with such a sub-committee rather than with one man.

The proposition was agreed to unanimously but as the Rugby players preferred the old methods, it was agreed that the innovation apply only to the association team.

The secretary to the Naval and Football Club wrote suggesting the formation of a league under English Association rules.

Members generally were not in favour of forming such a league, and passed a motion to the effect that the club was unable to join.

It was decided that the closing date for entries in the six-a-side competition should be Thursday, 25th instant.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The first annual meeting of the members of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club was held in the Cricket Club Pavilion on September 28th—Mr. A. B. Rouse in the chair. The other members present were:—Dr. F. Clark, captain; C. J. Watkins, Messrs. D. B. Murray, Guy Blood, L. G. Bird, H. J. O'Brien, P. S. Jameson, C. M. Fletcher, H. P. Tooker, E. A. Hanky, Percy Smith, C. H. Gale, E. W. Orm, A. W. Dixon, Robert Innes, E. M. Hazland, W. O. Kohler, F. W. Warren.

REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.

The report, which reads as under, was presented:

The sub-committee for boating have pleasure in laying before you the report of last season. The fleet of boats consists of:—2 four oars, 2 pair oars, 2 double sculls, 8 tubs, 2 randans, 1 dinghy. The boats are in good order and condition. Two four oars were sold: one went to Manila and one to Newchwang; and the sum of \$480 was realized by their sale.

One four oar boat is on order from Clasper, of England, and another from Leux, of Germany; and two pair oar boats from the Dock Co. here.

Eight girder oars are on order from Aylings, England. Club crews were entered for the Victoria Recreation Club, Canton, and Hongkong Regattas. Mr. W. O. Kohler was rowing captain for the season. The thanks of the committee are due to Messrs. Barlow and Kennett for coaching during the season. A polo team was started and entered for the Hongkong Water Polo Association. Two games were won and three lost.

The report and accounts were adopted.

ELECTIONS.

Mr. H. G. Pollock was elected commodore for next season, and the yacht committee was constituted as follows: Rear Admiral Williams, Dr. Clark, Messrs. Rouse, Tooker, Watkins and Hankey. Messrs. Warren, Gale, Carpenter, Barlow, Kohler, and Franklin were appointed the boat committee.

A. B. ROUSE,
Honorary Treasurer.
H. PERCY SMITH,
Secretary.

E. BURNS PYE } Auditors.
W. TURNER }

H. E. POLLOCK } General
C. M. E. WATKINS } Committee.
F. W. WARRE }

Accounts are as follows:—

WORKING ACCOUNT.

31st August, 1905.

To wages and salaries	\$ 292.00
To water rate	23.00
To stationery, printing and advertising	20.70
To water polo subscription, &c.	11.00
To incidental expenses	140.16
To repairs to matched	97.80
To expenses in connection with the formation of the club	258.50
To new club house, drawings, &c.	16.40
To balance	1,331.44
	\$2,373.00
By interest ex bankers	\$ 6.00
By subscriptions	2,367.00
	\$2,373.00

BALANCE SHEET.

31st August, 1905.

LIABILITIES.

To creditors	\$ 343.85
To capital, viz.:—	
Estimated value of boats, furniture, &c.	\$3,110.00
Cash received from Yacht Club	234.46
Do. Boat Club	1,777.24
	5,121.70
Balance of working account	1,331.44
	\$6,453.14
	\$6,796.99

ASSETS.

By estimated value of boats	\$2,810.00
Less 2 boats sold	400.00
	\$2,410.00
By estimated value of furniture, &c.	300.00
By sundry debtors	2,191.00
By cash in the bank	1,895.99
	\$6,796.99

HONGKONG HOCKEY CLUB.

The annual meeting of members of this club was held at the Hongkong Cricket Club pavilion on September 30th.

The CHAIRMAN stated that he had nothing to say, as the accounts spoke for themselves and as their secretary, Mr. T. C. Gray, looked after the club's interests in an efficient way, there was no need for him to enlarge upon the report.

He proposed its adoption, and on being seconded, the proposition was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. J. Barton was re-elected chairman of the club; Mr. L. Murphy, captain; and Mr. T. C. Gray, hon. secretary and treasurer.

In the ballot for committeemen the following were elected:—Messrs. J. Barton, L. Murphy, C. P. Chater, P. K. Kayvett, A. B. Ogle, R. E., and T. Greenwood, R. R.

The annual report was as follows:—The accounts attached show a credit balance of \$97.87 on the 30th September, 1905. The club played 10 matches, winning 3, losing 5, the remaining 2 being drawn. The challenge cup competition again proved a success, 13

entries being received. The cup was won by the 93rd Burmas, who defeated their second XI. in the final. The club was defeated, after a tie, by H. M. S. Hogue. The challenge cup fund shows a credit balance of \$54.66 on the 30th September, 1905. The thanks of the committee are due to Mr. P. H. Holyoak for kindly auditing the accounts. The club now consists of 70 members. During the season under review 22 new members were elected.

Dr. Dartnell, R. N., and Capt. Davies, A. O. D., resigned their positions on the committee on leaving the Colony, which will necessitate the election of naval and military representatives at the annual meeting. The accounts show a credit balance of \$97.87, while the balance standing to the credit of the challenge cup account is \$54.66.—T. C. Gray, hon. secretary and treasurer.

POLICE RECREATION CLUB.

The following are the report and accounts for presentation to shareholders at the annual meeting:—On the 10th of August, 1904, a general meeting of the members of the club was held, Mr. Hallifax presiding. The general purpose of this meeting was the putting forward of a proposal that the old club be dissolved and a new club be started, the old rules, with the exception of rule 4 which should be altered to read \$10.00 in place of \$4.00, and \$0.50 in place of \$0.25, to remain the rules of the new club. This proposition was carried by a majority of 16, there being but two against. At a general meeting, held on the 15th of December, 1904, it was proposed that the annual subscription be raised from \$6.00 to \$10.00. This proposal was carried unanimously. On the 26th of November, 1904, our present club premises at Happy Valley were opened by the Captain Superintendent of Police and Mr. Hallifax who was then Deputy Superintendent of Police. The club acknowledges, with thanks, that its present standing is entirely due to the assistance given, and the interest taken, by these two gentlemen.

The club joined the Cricket League last season and, after many pleasant and at times exciting games, finished up fifth on the League list—a very creditable performance for a new club. A silver cup had been offered the League for the highest individual batting average, and was won by our club in the person of P. C. Edwards, with an average of 28.14. On Mr. Hallifax leaving the force, temporarily, to take a position in North China, in connection with the Transvaal coolie emigration, he offered two silver cups to the club for the highest average in batting and bowling respectively, the cups to remain the property of the club—the winners to hold them for one year only. The cups were won by P. C. Edwards and P. C. Shepherd for batting and bowling respectively, their average being 28.14 and 10.11. Several inter-club games were played and proved most interesting and enjoyable. Also several second team games were played with other clubs with different degrees of fortune, and those also proved most interesting.

During the summer months a tennis and bowling competition has been in progress—slowly though—and the following is the result:—Tennis Singles: 1st, P. C. Edwards; 2nd, A. L. S. Clyde. Tennis Doubles: 1st, A. L. S. Pitt and P. C. McKenzie; 2nd, Inspector Kerr and McHardy. Bowls: 1st, Inspector Ritchie; 2nd, Inspector Gauld. The tennis and bowling green is have not been all that could be desired, but it is trusted that in the near future they will be in a fit and proper state.

The club bar was taken over from the canteen on the 21st of April this year and has, on the whole, proved profitable; showing a profit, after paying expenses, of \$170.07. There is a debt on the bar amounting to \$138.09, being for stock taken over from the canteen and for goods bought, but the value of stock in hand at present amounts to \$295, showing a balance to the credit of the bar account of \$157.13.

The club premises are in a good state of repair and the gear appertaining to the several branches of sport are in very good order.—W. Withers, hon. secretary. The accounts, presented by Mr.

W. Kent, hon. treasurer, show a balance in hand of \$135.22. In addition there are subscriptions outstanding to the amount of \$105.

HONGKONG ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the members of the Hongkong St. Andrews' Society took place in the City Hall on Sept. 30 under the chairmanship of Dr. Rennie, president.

THE REPORT.

The report of the committee for the year ending 31st August stated:—"St. Andrew's Day, 1904, was celebrated by a ball, which was a decided success. The sum of \$374.44 was expended during the year on charity. Several deserving cases were assisted from the Charitable Fund. Your committee deeply regret to record the deaths of the following members, which occurred since the last report: Messrs. A. Coutts, A. G. Ewing, J. L. Houston, J. Kirkwood and P. Lawson. Thirty-one new members joined the society during the year, as against twenty-six in the previous year. Your committee are indebted to Mr. J. McArthur for kindly auditing the accounts. A start has been made in the scheme for the development of historical studies among children of Scottish parentage, and Mr. W. D. Braidwood has kindly given the committee his valuable assistance. It is proposed to hold an examination in February next, and the subject for examination will be the period of Scottish history from the time of Malcolm Canmore to the Battle of Bannockburn. Juniors will be examined in the broad outstanding features of that period, and seniors in the same, and, in addition, they will be required to give a sketch of the lives of renowned warriors, statesmen, etc., of that period. Prizes will be awarded to the two best competitors between the ages of 12 and 18 years, and to the two best competitors under 12 years of age. Particulars of the above have been circulated to the heads of the various schools in Hongkong and Kowloon. Advertisements have also been inserted in the daily papers. Mr. N. S. Brown having resigned the post of hon. secretary in October last, Mr. D. Wood very kindly carried out the duties for the ball. Subsequently, Mr. W. Armstrong consenting to act as hon. secretary, he was unanimously appointed at a committee meeting held in May, and took over the duties from the beginning of July.

The finances showed a balance on the year's working of \$324.47, while the deposit account amounted to \$3,087.89.

The report was adopted.

OFFICE BEARERS.

Office bearers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—President, Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart; vice-president, Hon. Mr. R. Shewan; hon. secretary, Mr. W. Armstrong; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Boyd; and a committee of five.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It was decided to celebrate St. Andrew's Day by a ball and that a concert be held on the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, 25th January.

A ROYAL BIRTHDAY.

The anniversary of the birthday of Their Most Faithful Majesties, the King and Queen of Portugal, was celebrated by the Portuguese community here. In honour of the dual event, Senhor-Conselheiro A. G. Romano, the Consul General for Portugal, held a reception at his residence "Duarte" Arbutnot Road, which was attended by the official representatives of other nationalities and a number of Portuguese gentlemen.

King Carlos I. of Portugal was born on the 28th September, 1863, and was, therefore, 42 years of age yesterday. He married Amelia, daughter of the Duc d'Orleans. By a curious coincidence the anniversary of her natal day also falls on the same date.

The guests, who were received by the Consul and Vice Consul (Senhor João J. Leiria), included Captain Arbutnot Leslie, A.D.C. to His Excellency, Sir Matthew Nathan; Captain E. S. Ward, A.D.C. to Major General V. Hutton; Captain G. F. Muller, representing Rear-Admiral Dicken; Mr. Arathoon Seth, Registrar of the Supreme Court; all the Consuls,

and several friends of Senhor-Conselheiro Romano and Senhor Leiria. The usual loyal toasts were honoured.

Congratulatory telegrams were exchanged with his Excellency, the Governor of Macao, and a special telegram was sent to the Private Secretary of the King of Portugal, Conde Arnoso.

The torpedo boat *Janus* was sent by His Excellency, Sir Matthew Nathan, to Macao, conveying his private secretary, Mr. Richard Ponsonby, to congratulate the Governor of Macao in the name of the Governor of Hongkong.

In Macao the day was observed as a general holiday. The usual thanksgiving was held at 8 o'clock in the morning, a reception was held at His Excellency's house at 10.30, and in the afternoon a garden party took place at the Governor's summer residence, "Flora."

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 26th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).
A PROMISSORY NOTE DISPUTE.

The Tin Wo firm brought an action against Leung Tsung Laio to recover \$800 under a promissory note.

Mr. Holmes appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Otto Kong Sing for defendant.

The promissory note, it was stated, was given by defendant as part satisfaction of the monies he had overdrawn while managing partner of the plaintiff firm. For the defence it was contended that the present action was brought by the firm, other than as the payees of the promissory note, that the firm had been reconstructed since the promissory note was signed.

His Lordship overruled this point and gave judgment for plaintiffs.

Thursday, 28th September

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A PETTY CLAIM.

In this action Yung Tai Woon was plaintiff and Chung Sing Woon defendant, the claim being for \$364.70, being money paid on behalf of defendant. Mr. Mast-r appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Thompson for defendant. The latter submitted to judgment.

ANOTHER PROMISSORY NOTE DISPUTE.

Ch ung Sing Un sued Yung Fai Un for the recovery of \$467.40 being a contribution in respect of a joint debt on a promissory note given to Tan Chik U in December, 1903, by plaintiff and defendant. Plaintiff paid under the note, but defendant did not pay his share.

Mr. Thompson acted for plaintiff and Mr. Master for defendant.

The further hearing was adjourned

DES VŒUX ROAD FIRE INQUIRY.

At the Magistracy on September 28th Mr. F. A. Hazeland conducted an inquiry into the circumstances connected with the fire which occurred at the Cheung Lee Furniture shop, Des Vœux Road Central, on the morning of the 9th instant.

Mr. R. A. Harding watched the proceedings on behalf of the owner of the premises and Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Peacon) on behalf of the Meiji, the Western of Toronto, the North German, the Liverpool and London and Globe, the Sun and Union Fire Insurance Companies.

Lau Sui, master of the Cheung Lee Furniture shop, stated that the fire broke out at his premises shortly after 2 a.m. He and Lau Muk slept on the premises on the night in question. He slept on the second floor and went to bed about 11 p.m. A noise awakened him and he found the room full of smoke. He ran to the head of the stairs and saw smoke ascending from below. He then went to the kitchen, opened the window, and shouted "save life" for a long time, after which he climbed to the ground by a pipe. He was burnt

about the hands and face and went to see Dr. Jen Hawk. Before visiting the doctor he called on a friend in Pottinger Street who accompanied him to the hospital. He did not visit the shop for two or three days after the fire as he was too ill to leave the house. He did not know how the fire originated, but there were lamps burning on the stair cases each side of the shop. There was also a lamp burning on the first floor. He had been in the shop for two years and first started in the furniture line about five years ago. He never had a furniture shop in Canton. The shop was first insured for \$45,000, but the insurance was increased to \$50,000 sometime before the fire. He valued his stock at the time of the fire at over \$50,000, and had made up an account of it.

To Mr. Harding—The Cheung Lee business was started over ten years ago. For over five years his insurance had amounted to \$45,000. His biggest insurance was with the Meiji Fire Insurance Co., for \$20,000, and that policy was in force before he removed to Des Vœux Road. He effected new insurances with other companies because they were customers of his and asked him to patronise them. Kum Yik Chee was formerly a partner in the Chung Lee firm, and ceased to be one because he had overdrawn his money. He did not owe any money to his landlord at the time of the fire. His money invested in other firms amounted to over \$30,000, while his debts stood at over \$10,000.

To Mr. Looker—He first had a one-fourth share in the Chung Lee shop, which was worth \$2,500. It was his father's share, and was left to him. He also put \$7,500 cash into the shop, which was to buy up the other partners. That was five years ago. For some months before the fire he was not making much profit, but last year his profits amounted to \$3,000 or \$4,000. He made 20 or 30 per cent. profit this year; that was calculated without deducting expenses. About \$6,000 or \$7,000 worth of the goods in his shop were not paid for: he bought them from commission agents in Hongkong. Besides this amount he owed his friends and relations from \$7,000 to \$8,000, and people abroad about \$5,000. If paid the full amount of his policies he would have about \$2,000 in cash when his debts were paid. His foki kept the books of the shop.

The hearing was adjourned.

The inquiry into the circumstances connected with the fire which occurred at the Cheung Lee Furniture shop, 29, Des Vœux Road Central, in the early morning of the 9th Sept., was continued before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the magistracy on September 30th.

Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the Fire Insurance Companies interested, and Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the owner of the premises.

Lau Sui, master of the shop, was further cross-examined by Mr. Looker. He said the value of the stock on the premises at the time of the fire was over \$51,000. The stock was on the ground, first and second floors. He could not give an estimate of the value of the stocks on each floor, but got the total value of the goods from his books. A lot of goods on the ground floor were not burnt. The goods on the first floor were worth more than \$2,000. They were new goods for sale, and there was a large stock of them. The stock on the second floor was also mostly new goods, and it was of about the same value as the stock on the first floor. The goods on the ground floor were all samples and would not be worth about \$10,000. There were goods placed on the first floor about three or four days before the fire, but some of them were sold before the fire occurred. He last inspected the first floor goods about noon on the day before the fire. Goods were not constantly removed from his shop for two or three months before the fire. His business was middling for two or three months before the fire. Messrs. Siem sen & Co. purchased about \$3,000 worth of goods, some of which were taken from the ground and some from the first floor. At the end of August he had about 26 foki in his shop, over ten of whom slept on the premises. At the time of the fire he and Lau Muk were the only two sleeping on the premises. Some of the others who used to sleep there had gone to the country sick, others had

gone away and others had died. For two or three days prior to the fire there had been no foki sleeping on the premises. The number of foki sleeping on the premises was getting less and less every day. The day before the fire there were, including witness, six foki on the premises. They went away at seven o'clock that night. They did not, as a rule, sleep on the premises. He did not know where the Wing Wo Cheung shop was in Canton, and had never heard of it. He had not visited Canton for a long time.

Mr. Looker—Well, I put it to you as a fact that there is a shop in Canton recently established, carrying on business in European furniture, to which you used to consign goods, and to which some of your foki went.—I never sent goods there, and I know that none of my foki went there.

Witness, continuing, said he had not consigned any furniture to Canton recently, but had put goods on board for Chinese, Japanese and European customers in Canton. He had no shop in Macao, and had not consigned any goods there this year. The man who slept on the ground floor of the shop was there as a watchman. That was the reason he did not sleep on the first floor with witness. When he awoke on the morning of the fire there was a lot of smoke, but he did not see flames. He eventually got down the rain pipe; this would be a quarter of an hour after he woke up. He saw fire when he went to the window to get down the rain pipe.

Mr. Looker—Can you explain how it is that although your hands and face were burnt, your garments were not touched.

Witness could not explain.

Mr. Harding—They have since been washed.

Continuing, witness said the ground floor was lit with electricity, and the stair case light, a lamp, was on the first floor. There was another lamp on the second floor which he extinguished when he went to bed. Within a week of the fire his premises were visited by sanitary inspectors. The watchman had no interest in the firm beyond his wages.

By Mr. Harding—His father was commander of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. He advanced \$20,000 odds to the partnership in the business, which was paid in by his father. After he had dissolved with his partners he had a cash capital of more than \$20,000. There were two houses where the fire broke out, with openings on the ground floor. The first foki became sick two weeks before the fire and was taken to the Tung Wa hospital. Ten of his foki became sick and six died. Some went away through fear, and that was the reason why witness and another foki only were on the premises that night. He could not explain how the scorched mark on his jacket was caused. It was not there before the fire. The coat had been washed since the fire. Good trade should be done towards the end of the year in his business. Shortly before the fire he had sent goods to Manila.

By his Worship—He took stock of his goods every year at the end of the year. Last year the value of the stock was a little over \$50,000. The inquiry was adjourned till Tuesday afternoon.

THE KING'S ENGLISH.

We do not know whether the following circular is in Japanese-English or Chinese-English, as it relates to a Japanese performance and is signed by a Chinese firm. It is amusing enough to print, however.

"Japanese Conjuraction." This is called "Wonderful Art of Tran Substantiation" which is famous in the world but this is the first time to play in Hongkong. The play are such A gentleman coming out and converting himself like a skeleton in a minute, a lantern, into a cage of sparrows flying about, and a dog into a rabbit and a cat, and a curious picture of man smoking cigar, into the man's mouth and cigar having smoke to come out. There are still many curious arts which we can't write all in this paper.

Then follow dates and prices, with the notification that "Small boy charge half price."

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 21st September.

THE APPROACHING FANCY FAIR.

The promoters of the Fancy Fair for raising funds for the St. Francis Xavier School, to be held on the 30th instant and 1st proximo, have abandoned their idea of holding the fair in the Flora Garden, as they have found out that the locality, although eminently suitable for the purpose, is rather far from the town, and inconvenient to both the promoters and the intending patronizers of the fair. As the feast of the Holy Rosary will also take place on the 1st proximo in the S. Domingo's Church, and near by is a new market just constructed but not yet opened, I would suggest that the fair be held there instead. The opening of the new market is fixed for the 28th instant, the anniversary of the birthday of their most Faithful Majesties the King and Queen of Portugal, but there will be no difficulty in postponing the opening until after the fair, to enable the promoters to use the place for that purpose. The benefit which can be derived if my suggestion is carried out is obvious. I hear that the Rev. A. Gomes, the principal promoter of the fair, has been receiving from various places some very nice and valuable presents for the occasion, and these, no doubt, will be the means of attracting a large number of buyers of tickets for the fair, especially from your colony. The promoter is working very hard to make the fair a success, and he deserves pecuniary assistance from all.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

I hear that this city will be lighted by electricity for the first time on the evening of the 28th instant, but how and from where the current will be obtained I am unable to enlighten your readers. The works are still under construction, and most of the machinery and other necessary appliances are still lying on the Heungshan wharf, to the great inconvenience of passengers to and from Macao and those who have occasion to make use of the wharf. Perhaps the steamboat company have granted this special privilege to the electric company, but they must also see to the convenience of the public and especially those who patronize the company. There is no reason why all these pieces of iron cannot be at once removed and deposited on the piece of reclaimed ground next to the wharf.

THE WEATHER.

Since Monday last the weather here has been very threatening, and all the junks and sampans went to seek shelter from the wind and the rain. Although the typhoon kept clear of this city again, we had a rather stiff gale from the N. and N.E., which made the sea very rough. Yesterday it was raining very hard.

MARKETS AND MIDDLEMEN AT WUCHOW.

Mr. Acting-Consul Wilkinson, at Wuchow, says a great deal has been written in previous reports on the trade of Wuchow, of the market that exists there for such articles as fancy soaps, scents, belts, cutlery, biscuits, condensed milk, medicines, and even feeding bottles; "though I have never yet heard of a Chinese mother using one, I have had to reply to numerous enquiries from the makers of such articles in the United Kingdom." He explains that, "though there is a sale at this port in a small way for most of these articles, owing to the conditions under which business is carried on at Wuchow, it is quite impossible for the Consul to be of any assistance to exporters at home in placing their particular productions on the market. The foreign goods shops at this port, and in fact at every town in this province, are all branch establishments of Chinese firms in the Canton province, principally at Fatsan. When any of these shops need a fresh stock of goods the manager sends a rough list of the kind of articles he wants to his principals, who forward it to their buyers at Hongkong, leaving the choice apparently very much to their discretion." There are no wholesale dealers in foreign goods at Wuchow, and Mr. Wilkinson states that the British manufacturer who

wishes to place his goods on that market can only do so at present by getting into touch through his agents in China with the native merchants at Hongkong, who act as buyers for Chinese firms on the mainland. It has often been urged on British merchants in China that they should endeavour to dispense with the services of these middlemen by dealing directly with their principals; but for goods, the sale of which is limited, it appears to the Acting Consul that the present system is the most advantageous for all parties. Even in the case of piece goods, with which our trade is chiefly concerned, there can, he says, be little fault to find with the system. "Apparently, it does not enhance the cost of the goods, for shirtings of every description are sold here and in the interior at prices which one would imagine cannot leave any margin of profit to the importer. A case has been mentioned to me of a British merchant doing a large business in piece-goods in Hongkong who, to try and increase his sales, opened an agency at this port. He gave it up after a short trial because he found that his own 'chop' of shirtings was being sold cheaper in Wuchow by his Hongkong clients than he himself could afford to sell it. The explanation given to me is that shirtings and Indian yarn have, like opium, become almost a medium of exchange at this port and in its hinterland, and the importer looks for his profit to the native produce for which he barter his goods, or which he purchases with the proceeds of their sale. There are probably other reasons as well, such as keen competition, to account for the low cost at which piece-goods are sold in this province, but there can be no question that the effect is excellent on the trade."

The vegetable oils produced in Kuangsi province, particularly aniseed, cissia, groundnut and wood oils have a high reputation in China, and the supply, which is small, is not nearly equal to the demand. The magnificent forests in the north of the province and in Kueichow abound also in all kinds of valuable woods, producing camphor, rubber, paper, soap and tallow, which have not as yet been put to any commercial use. The mineral wealth of Kuangsi is said, too, to be very considerable, though not on the very best of evidence. Some of the mines, however, according to the Acting-Consul, are unquestionably valuable.

TREATY PORTS OR "TRADING CENTRES."

Now that so many inland Treaty ports, or as we generally term them for purposes of distinction, "trading centres" are being voluntarily opened by China, the proclamation by the Changsha authorities which we reproduce elsewhere has a universal interest. The Bennettz difficulty, as our readers are aware, has hinged on the insistence of a British merchant that the "opening of Changsha to foreign trade" meant the opening of Changsha (city) and not a swamp in some district outside the city where trade would be difficult if not impossible. The fact that at each treaty port there is a foreign settlement or residential and business quarter, is being utilized by the Chinese in their present snail-like humour, to signify that when they write "black," "green" should really be read. But fortunately though diplomacy is an easy-going animal and will occasionally munch straw for no other reason than because it is marked "hay," the British Minister has read into the present case an insidious and dangerous precedent, and having stood firm, as every British Minister might well have done before him, Mr. Bennettz's position has been legally justified, and a rather nice question satisfactorily settled. Such a question would not, of course, have been raised in any other country than China, where any argument apparently serves to bat the door they are chasing; as the Government are perfectly well aware that in all the treaty ports the pioneer traders have had their homes in the native cities, and their present disposition is for mutual comfort and convenience and not a point of law. Here in the North there are several "Changshas" being opened now, and in Manchuria we look for a few more in the near future, and it is as well that the Chinese should be as clear on the point of locality as foreign traders will be.—*Pientsin Times*.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* says:—A wise general receives with attention, the information of every scout, even a voluntary one. He may know the news brought already, or he may know more; but if he is wise he will keep this to himself and not choke off a possible source of information at some other time on a point which he may not know. The British Foreign Office is notorious for being an unwise general. It prides itself on having a large and qualified staff of scouts of its own choosing, and is content to go on its way knowing and seeing nothing of the great battle of life affecting its most vital interests, rather than accept information from the voluntary scout whom it has not chosen. Many years ago a scout which might have been a good and faithful servant not only to the F.O. but to the nation came into being in the form of the China Association. It gathered together within the fold of its membership all the soundest judgments and the most qualified business men in the Far East, the men in short who had made the Far East, and by whose exertions the growing trade of the Far East, flowed smoothly between the old shores and the new. This scout said, "we will come to the help of the great F.O. and give it the information as to the influences for and against British interests in the Far East, which can only be gleaned on the spot, and a great future will be opened for us and for those who come after us." But the great F.O. put on the chilly stare of officialdom, was freezingly polite, but gave the scout clearly to understand that it knew all that the would-be informant could tell, and more, oh, so very much more, that the scout could not possibly even guess. We all know the sort of thing, for most of us have with patriotic zeal tried to play scout for British interests at some time or another. Of course the China Association sat tight and vowed it was not going to be snubbed, and that it would yet bring the great F.O. to its senses. But this was a long time ago and since then word has been passed round that the great C.A. has been long since dead, and is only commemorated now by an annual dinner. So sure of its death were China coast men that a new scout arose called the China League, which even now occasionally bombards the F.O. with "memorials," but has not touched the hem of British interests in China. But the China Association has lately asserted it is not dead. Judging by appearances, however, it looks far more like a spook than a vital body. Its name no longer fits it, and hangs loose and meaningless on an apparently dilapidated frame. The China Association holds an important meeting in London and refuses to take China into its confidence at all. The executive body are some of the old and original members, but they have been so long at home that they have lost touch with the East and the questions which make British blood tingle in the East, and they have evidently bowed down and paid homage to the great F.O. and taken the pledge of silent acquiescence in the name of the mighty "other interests" for which the small concerns of the money spinners of Great Britain abroad so often have to stand aside.

We read in the *Hongkong Daily Press* a strong protest from one who was at the meeting in question, and who tried to get a verbatim report of the proceedings on behalf of the members in China, who surely have the best right to know what is being done, but who appear to be treated now by the London Committee with little more consideration than shown by the Government itself. These representatives have been so long at home that they are evidently completely out of touch with interests which they started out to defend, and it is clear if the China Association is to be rescued from the oblivion of a defunct good intention, a shaking up of the dry bones must take place and an understanding be come to between the officers at home and the members out here.

The United States' cruiser *Raleigh* arrived here early on September 25th from Cebu in charge of Captain Baker. She saluted the port and the French battleship. The *Raleigh* has a tonnage of 3,213, and steams 21 knots an hour.

COMPANIES.

THE DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.

The twenty-second ordinary general meeting of shareholders in this company was held at the company's office on the 3rd September. There were present Mr. H. P. White (Chairman), Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson, Mr. A. G. Wood and Hon. Mr. R. Shewan (Consulting Committee), and Messrs. C. D. Wilkinson, J. E. Bingham, W. Parlance, J. A. Jupp, J. R. Michael, T. F. Hough, E. W. Mitchell, J. S. Perry, W. F. McIntosh, W. H. Potts, S. J. Michael and Chan Sue.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands some days I will with your permission take them as read. The result of the year's actual working while showing an improvement on the previous year is not so good as we had hoped for, but at the same time it should be pointed out that the profits on the working of the steamers are almost entirely derived from the regular coast trade of the company, there having been no Government or special charters during the period under review. Reference has been made in the report to the sale of the *Thales* and *Hailoong*. Both these steamers were too small for our present trade, and as their running expenses were but little less than those of a steamer of almost double capacity, they had ceased to be remunerative for some time past. The question of a new steamer of larger capacity to replace those sold, has been temporarily shelved but will be brought forward when the outlook for shipping in the East, is more propitious. Competition with the subsidized Japanese line still continues, but at the present time the remaining steamers of the Douglas Company are earning fair freights. We were fortunate in having funds available at a time when money was in good demand, and you will learn from the accounts that the company has now a considerable sum out on mortgage which bears an average rate of interest of nearly 8½ per cent. The income under this heading, will show a considerable increase in next year's accounts, and we are hopeful that at the next general meeting, we shall be able to show a better result on the year's working generally. In the circumstances the general managers and consulting committee, after due consideration, have decided to declare a dividend of 7 per cent. which virtually absorbs the whole of the actual profit on the year's working, to carry \$7,638.79 to credit of the reserve fund, and to write off 8 per cent. from the value of the Company's properties (less the amount of the reserve fund). Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions that shareholders may wish to put.

Mr. PERRY—I should like to ask, Mr. Chairman, whether any of our steamers have made a profit during the year.

The CHAIRMAN—It has never been the custom to say whether any steamer is making a profit or not. There is no use in giving away information to our opponents, and nothing to be gained by it.

Mr. PERRY—Well, did any of the steamers make a loss?

The CHAIRMAN—I have answered your question, Mr. Perry. As I said before, there is nothing to be gained by giving information away to our opponents.

Mr. PERRY—Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few remarks and draw the attention of the general managers and consulting committee to the following facts in relation to the reports and accounts whose adoption we are called upon to pass to-day. Analysing the amount of profits of \$196,100.55, as shown in the account, I find that it is made up of the following items:—
\$126,660.00 difference between book value and sale price of s.s. *Thales* and s.s. *Hailoong*.
\$31,421.71 Interest on the Co.'s investments.
\$51,401.89 profit on running the steamers and on coal.
\$12,783.05 less remuneration to general managers and other charges.

Balance \$8,610.84

196,100.55

It will readily be seen from the foregoing particularized items that out of the large sum

of profits, viz., \$196,100.55 as shown in the account, only the sum of \$88,618.84 is the actual return derived from the running of the Co.'s fleet. Thus with what was supposed to be a fairly good year (one better than the normal) as the past one, and with a free field without any keen opposition from our competitors the Japanese (as the latter were obliged to charter foreign steamers at very high prices to take the place of their steamers which were employed by the Japanese Government as transports), our actual return from the working of the steamers amounted only to the sum of \$88,618.84. This net outturn represents 4.41 per cent. on the value of \$375,000 of the steamers. With this fact before us, it must be admitted that the company's position is anything but a satisfactory one; at any rate its earning powers have been so materially impaired that, as an enterprise, its ability to acquire for shareholders remunerative dividends is fairly on the road to extinction. To pay dividends out of profits accrued from sales of steamers and interest on mortgages, etc., is taking us rather beyond the line and scope of the business for which the company was originally constituted. Besides, profits from sales of steamers are a remote contingency and cannot be expected every year, and should not be fallen back upon for dividends. What most seriously engages our attention now is the question whether or not the company's fleet as now running, and with the prospective immediate resumption of competition by our indefatigable rivals—the Japanese—can make its way to pay the shareholders adequate dividends on the assets of the company. I may remark in passing that should the company make it a rule of writing off eight per cent. from the steamers' value it would be found that the amount accrued from steamers' working pure and simple will not suffice to provide the wherewithal for this prudent and advisable policy. At present the assets of the company in cash and steamers, etc., amount to about \$1,400,000 and yet the shares are quoted at half the value, viz., 20,000 shares at \$35 per share, equal to \$700,000. Why this disparity, is an oft enough heard question. It is simply because the company has proved itself, for a number of years past, incapable of earning dividends commensurate with the capital at its disposal. The prospect is anything but promising, and it requires no power of prescience to foretell that the position of the company will not only retrograde but there is every likelihood that the rate of retrogression will be such as to foredoom it to extinguishment much sooner than it should be pleasant to contemplate. Isn't it about time, with the experience of recent years, that the general managers in conjunction with the consulting committee should devise some means of turning the valuable assets of the company to better ends? I hear there is a syndicate who will be willing to offer \$50 per share and buy up the company. Will the general managers consider such a proposal, or will they endeavour to suggest any other scheme to promote the interest of the shareholders?

Mr. Hough—Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order. We are called together to pass the report and accounts.

Mr. PERRY—Excuse me, I am making remarks on the accounts as published.

Mr. Hough—I think Mr. Perry is getting very wide of the mark. We are having a serceed inflicted upon us.

Mr. PERRY—I am passing remarks, Mr. Chairman, on the accounts.

The CHAIRMAN—Keep to the accounts then. Further than the accounts and report you cannot go.

Mr. PERRY—I will finish, I have only a few lines more.

The CHAIRMAN—Go on.

Mr. PERRY—I should be ruled out of order were I to bring forward a motion to the effect at the present meeting; but I offer it as a suggestion, meriting prompt consideration, that an extraordinary meeting be called for discussing a question of vital importance such as my proposal involves and give the shareholders a chance to express their views on the matter. Before sitting down I may point out that holding as I do a large number of shares, I feel I have some justification in giving public utterance to some of my views.

The CHAIRMAN—I am pleased to hear what you have said, Mr. Perry, but you say we had no opposition while the Japanese boats were off the run, but we have had a very strenuous opposition, the whole time with chartered steamers—an equal opposition to the Japanese own steamers. We have had the same number of steamers against us the whole time, and they cut rates and took cargo.

Mr. PERRY—But they chartered foreign steamers and had to pay for them.

The CHAIRMAN—Then they are losing money.

Mr. PERRY—What profit did we make, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN—We made some profit.

Mr. PERRY—We are losing money.

The CHAIRMAN—All our dividends, you say, are paid out of profits of steamers. That is not so. They are paid out of the actual earnings every time. We got the interest on mortgage that is part of the capital, and can always get that.

Mr. PERRY—I know we can, but we want to know what profit you made on the earnings of the steamers.

The CHAIRMAN—\$50,000

Mr. PERRY—Excuse me, \$38,000.

The CHAIRMAN—Apart from that we have got rid of two steamers the *Thales* and the *Hailoong* which were certainly not paying steamers. We have now three steamers earning fair returns, and I believe, as said in the report, that at next year's meeting we shall be able to show a better result.

Mr. PERRY—I am afraid that is questionable.

The CHAIRMAN—I don't know.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL—Is there any chance of improving our position by coming to terms with the Japanese?

The CHAIRMAN—I am tired of trying. I have tried them again and again, but you know the Japanese. They say they will write to Tokyo, but never do. We can get nothing out of them although I have been in communication with them time and time again.

There being no further questions the CHAIRMAN moved and Mr. WILKINSON seconded, the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was carried.

Mr. JUPP moved that the Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson, Hon. Mr. R. Shewan and Messrs. C. H. Thompson and A. G. Wood be re-elected to the consulting committee.

Mr. MITCHELL seconded the motion, to which the meeting agreed.

Mr. PERRY moved that Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. R. Lowe be re-elected auditors.

Mr. Hough—Mr. Chairman, I have much pleasure in seconding Mr. Perry's motion.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That, gentlemen, concludes the business of the meeting. Thank you for your attendance. I really hope at the next meeting to be able to give a better report. Dividend warrants will be ready on Sept. 25th.

CANTON AND HONGKONG ICE COMPANY.

The second ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Canton and Hongkong Ice and Cold Storage Company, Ltd., was held on Sept 3rd at the Company's office, 31 Queen's Road Central. Mr. A. F. Carrick (president) was in the chair, and there were also present: Chan A Fook (vice president) Tsang Yuen Kai, G. A. Watkins and Messrs. Chan A Tak (secretary).

The Chairman—You have before you the accounts set out and these present absolutely nothing which requires comment from me, the only transactions being those necessarily caused by keeping the property of the company together and the payment of such outstanding accounts as the Directors thought justified in settling. Since the last meeting, several vacancies occurred on the Board of Directors, either by resignation or death of members. To fill these vacancies Messrs. Lai Hui Kwan, A. F. Carrick, N. M. Holmes and C. W. Mead have been nominated and these appointments now require your confirmation. Before moving the adoption of the accounts, I wish to say that throughout this season of apparent inactivity the Directors have not been idle but during the past four months have effected a reorganiza-

tion of the affairs of the Company and have arranged to push the erection of the ice plant at Canton so that it will be turning out ice by next hot season. The contract for this plant, including all machinery and building has been let to the Oriental Construction Co and their Manager states that the first installment of machinery will be delivered at Canton within six months and before that time work will be commenced on the foundations. The land owned by the Company at Canton has proved too small to contain the necessary buildings of the plant and, as adjoining property is held at high values, it is proposed to sell this lot and buy another larger and cheaper site, although somewhat farther removed from the centre of the city. The Directors have in view several locations on the bank of the river well suited to our needs. I trust at the next meeting to have something more substantial on which to report than the promise of the past. Unless there are any questions to be answered I will propose the adoption of the accounts as presented.

Mr. WATKINS said he had much pleasure in seconding.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. WATKINS proposed the appointment to the Board of Directors of Messrs. Lai Hui Kwan, A. F. Carrick, N. M. Holmes and C. W. Mead.

Mr. CHAN A. FOOK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that but for a delay at the printers the prospectus would have been issued that day. They would however be ready for distribution on Monday.

This concluded the business.

WILLIAM POWELL, LIMITED.

The fourth ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders in this company was held at the offices of the company, Alexandra Buildings, on the September 3rd.

There were present: Mr. W. H. Gaskell (chairman) and Mr. G. C. Moxon (directors); also Messrs. H. Eyre (manager), L. S. Lewis, J. W. C. Bonnar, T. Arnold, Percy Smith and C. A. da Roza.

The MANAGER having read the notice convening the meeting, the CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen—The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, with your permission I will consider them as read. We are pleased to again come before you with what we may justly consider a satisfactory report of the year's working. The expenses in connection with the business for the past year have been somewhat heavy, but this we anticipated would be the case for the first year in our new premises and consequent extension of business. You will observe from the report before you that we still continue to write down our stock on hand, reducing it to a low cost. At the close of the year under review the value of our stock was about \$53,000 more than that of the previous year, the increase being principally in connection with the furnishing department. We hold at the present time no old or deteriorated goods having disposed of same from time to time during the year. We found it absolutely necessary to carry a clean and up-to-date stock, having so many climatic influences to contend against. I am pleased to be able to state that the sales for the first three months of the present year, July, August and September, are in excess of the corresponding months of last year, and although trade has been dull for some time past we look for a considerable increase of business during the coming season over that of last year. Our manager reports that he has a good and reliable staff of assistants over each department, that we should be in a position to meet all demands for the coming winter. There is nothing that occurs to me to add to my remarks, but I shall be happy to answer any questions or give any information that shareholders may desire.

There were no questions, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. ARNOLD—I have much pleasure in seconding the proposition. I think the shareholders have every reason to be gratified with the result shown.

Mr. LEWIS proposed the election of the Chairman (Mr. Gaskell) and Mr. Moxon as directors for the ensuing year.

Mr. BONNAR seconded and the proposition was agreed to.

Mr. BONNAR moved that Mr. Percy Smith be re-elected auditor of the company.

Mr. ROSA seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. SMITH—I thank you, gentlemen, for the confidence you have placed in me, and I hope I deserve it. While passing a vote of thanks to the manager and staff, may I also pass one to yourself, Mr. Moxon, for the excellent services you have rendered the company during the year. After the manager, no one is in a better position than I am to know what time and attention you have devoted to the interests of the company.

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you, gentlemen, for the vote of thanks accorded to Mr. Moxon and myself. We always do our best to safeguard the interests of the firm as much as possible, and hope to be able to steer the company into smooth water. That is all the business before the meeting, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants are now ready, and the manager will distribute them.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting, on Friday, 20th October, reads as follows:—

The general agents and consulting committee beg to submit to the shareholders the final accounts for the year 1904.

1904 account.—The balance at credit of this account is \$66,540.38 as per statement which it is recommended be appropriated as follows:—

A dividend of \$20 per share	\$2,000.00
Addition to the reserve fund	200,000.00
Addition to re-insurance fund	50,000.00
Carrying forward to the current year's account	211,540.38
	\$661,540.38

1905 account.—So far the general agents and consulting committee have every reason to be satisfied with the progress of this account.

Consulting Committee.—Since the last meeting Mr. G. C. Moxon was nominated in place of Mr. D. E. Brown and his appointment requires the confirmation of shareholders. The present members, The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. F. Maitland, H. P. White, E. Shellim and G. C. Moxon, retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors. The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and T. Arnold, the latter replacing Mr. R. Chatterton Wilcox, and their re-election is recommended.

JARDINE, MATESON & Co.,

General Agents.

Hongkong, 27th September, 1905.

Accounts are as follows:—

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

For the year ending 31st December, 1904.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital subscribed	\$2,500,000.00		
Amount paid-up		500,000.00	
Reserve fund		1,400,000.00	
Re-insurance fund		97,855.48	
Outstanding dividends		8,762.00	
Accounts payable		37,280.24	
Balance of working account, 1904		661,540.38	
		\$2,705,478.10	

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Cash, on current account with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		11,414.95	
Fixed deposit, with bank in Hongkong		225,000.00	
Mortgages and debentures, in Hongkong and Shanghai		1,858,028.52	
Chinese Imperial Government loan, 1886		46,174.25	
United States bonds (4 per cent. loan, 1920)		400,000.00	
Japanese Government bonds		164,860.38	
		\$2,755,478.10	

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1904.		\$	c.
To amount brought forward from last account		150,494.34	
To net premium received, less returns and re-insurances		1,616,887.53	
To interest		168,171.70	
To transfer fees		41.00	
		\$1,935,596.57	

By losses and claims paid	1,033,609.61
By charges, including directors', auditors' and survey fees, agents' expenses, &c.	94,329.24
By commissions	144,711.02
By exchange	1,393.32
By balance as above	661,540.38
	\$1,935,596.57

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 23rd September.

DEBTORS ARRESTED.

Some two years ago, the partners of a large pig's bran firm in Sha Kee Tai Kai, named On Chan, which was doing a very flourishing business at that time, suddenly declared themselves insolvent. Their liability was over Tls. 30,000. The partners Li Fong Lau and Lam King Chow closed the door of the shop and went abroad, leaving only one of their confidential servants supposedly to look after the place, but in reality his duty was to watch the disposition of the creditors and to report to them what procedure they were taking. The only assets left behind by the debtors were the fixtures and the lease of the shop, and these, according to the Chinese custom here, are considered as quite a valuable asset in every business. The creditors took proceedings against Li and Lam in the Nam Hoi Magistracy, but as the defendants could not be found, the action was discontinued. Recently several of the creditors discovered that the defendants had returned to their native village up-country, and were there enjoying their ill-gotten gains. The creditors artfully concocted a letter, supposed to be written by the debtors' trustworthy servant in Canton, saying that he had received a very good offer from a certain party who desired to purchase the fixtures and lease of the shop, and he believed the creditors had abandoned all hopes of recovering their claims. It wound up by urging his masters to come to Canton as soon as possible to execute the transfer of the lease by which they could make another big haul. The defendants came to Canton. Their surprise and disappointment may better be imagined than described, as on their arrival at the shop they found a crowd of creditors and several braves awaiting them. Li and Lam were arrested and bundled away to the Nam Hoi Gaol.

PIRACY.

A junk trading between Canton and Sai Nam, which left here on the 19th instant for the latter place, with full cargo and passengers, was pirated on the same day near a place called Kamkai. It was reported that over thirty pirates boarded the junk from sampans rowed by women. The pirates took the junk to Man Kao, and after ransacking the passengers' luggage and the vessel, they left her, taking away with them merchandise, jewellery and money to the extent of over 10,000 taels. The matter was reported to the authorities, and braves have already been sent out to locate the pirates.

MAGISTRATE'S NOVEL WAY OF COLLECTING INFORMATION.

The new Nam Hoi magistrate, Chan Pak Hau, is a very energetic official. He inspected the prison on the 17th instant and intends dealing with all the remanded prisoners first before taking up any fresh cases. As I told you the other day, he has placed two letter boxes at the entrance of his Yamen. Here is a literal translation of the Chinese characters on them. On one of the boxes, is the heading, in large characters: "Desirous to learn about my own faults," and in smaller characters the following notification:—"If any of my secretaries or domestic servants should cause trouble or swindle people outside, or if any of my clerks or yamen runners should extort money, etc., the public are requested to write out statements describing full particulars of the case and put same into this box." The heading on the other box is: "Request to be informed of all public affairs concerning the people," and the text in smaller characters reads as follows: "If in the city there should be anything beneficial and profitable that requires to be promoted, or anything vicious and corrupt that requires to be reformed; if in any village there are bandits and

bad character, and which brought about the most violent and cruel, and what proper means could be taken to ensure their captivity and what, furthermore, are the means or methods to keep the peace in peace, the public are requested to write out statements describing full particulars of information and suggestions on these matters and put same into type.

NEW MILITARY STATION.

Owing to the non-Yu district in the first district with robbers, big game and other actors the magistrate proposed Viceroy Shum requesting his sanction the establishment of a military station with a division (50) of soldiers at Cheung Chow, similar to that of Kowloon in the Nam Hong district. His Excellency has granted the request. Yesterday the Sin-Hau-Kuk went to the office in charge of the station.

ILLICIT FAN-TAN HOUSE FOR WOMEN.

The police raided a house in Quar Fung Street, in the Walled City, where fan-tan is said to have been played by women for a long time. Leong Cheong Shi, the proprietress of the place, who was conducting the game at the time, and her husband, Leong Fook Shun, were arrested. All the women who were gambling in the house were set free.

ABSCONDING DEBTOR.

Last year a Canton merchant named Wong Pak Kwong failed in business and absconded to Tonkin. He was indebted to the various local banks for considerable sums, the aggregate being something like 70,000 taels. The bankers reported the matter to Viceroy Shum through the Chamber of Commerce shortly after the debtor absconded. A few days ago the bankers got the Bank Guild Chung Hum Tong, to petition the Viceroy requesting him to grant passports to Lui Yung Shing and Yeong Chi Yu, whom they have appointed as their attorneys, to proceed to Tonkin to institute actions against Wong Pak Kwong for the recovery of their debts. His Excellency is reported to have replied:—"I have perused carefully the contents of your petition. It appears that the Chamber of Commerce had previously communicated to me in the same matter, and on receipt of their letter I requested the French Consul to communicate the facts of your case to the Governor of Tonkin. I noticed that the names stated in your petition do not agree with those indicated in the letter of the Chamber of Commerce, which I have already forwarded to the Governor of Tonkin through the French Consul." The Viceroy thereupon reprimands the petitioners for their carelessness in supplying names different from the first instance, and brings to their attention that if passports had been granted, as at first requested, the bearers may not have been able to identify themselves and consequently not have been permitted to land or proceed with their action. The Viceroy has issued an order to the Chamber of Commerce to call before them the petitioners to examine thoroughly into and report upon the case, previous to the final application and granting of passports.

29th September

IMPORTATION OF FIRE ARMS.

Admiral Li T-un telegraphed to Viceroy Shum from Wai Chow saying he had discovered that secret societies in Canton had imported two thousand rifles; and that a further shipment (by junk) of four thousand rifles was on its way to Canton. He requested the Viceroy to authorize the Military and Naval authorities to make thorough inquiries about the matter and to keep a vigilant watch on people of suspicious character.

A LUCKY WOMAN.

On the 26th instant a poor labouring woman picked up a pile of bank notes near Kau Chong Hong in the Walled City. While she was counting it a man calmly walked up to her and claimed it to be his property. A quarrel ensued and they were both arrested and taken to the nearest police station. The shrewd Inspector of the station after hearing the story related by the woman, told the man that if he could tell the number of notes and their value he would believe his version of the story and return the money to him. The man said he dropped fifteen bank notes of ten dollars each which was a very near guess. When the Inspector counted the notes it turned out to be one hundred and fifty-five

dollars which were all in five dollar notes. The money was handed back to the woman and the man was detained for making a false statement.

MORE RECRUITS.

Viceroy Shum has designated two military men, Cheong Man Tak and Cheong Po to proceed to Sin Chow and Nam Hui prefectures to try to recruit soldiers.

NO CONFIDENCE IN MANDARINS.

Recently Tai Yew in memorialised Viceroy Shum suggesting the imposition of a tax of five per cent on the sale of goods by all shops and merchants here. Tai reckoned his revenue that could be obtained from this scheme would amply replace that which is derived from fan-tan. His Excellency ordered the Chamber of Commerce to call a meeting to consider if the scheme were workable and to send him an official report. A meeting was held two days ago and the following was the decision:—

- (1) That the members all agreed on the excellent policy proposed by Viceroy Shum in devising some means to obtain revenue to replace that which is derived from fan-tan.
- (2) That if the tax proposed by Tai Yew Tin be enforced it would bring great hardships on all traders and merchants and would hamper commerce in general.
- (3) That such a tax is likely to embroil the general public and create trouble.
- (4) That the mandarins have hitherto been continually breaking their word; that even if we were to favour the adoption of this tax we are afraid that the injurious fan-tan gambling will be allowed to continue unchecked.

ADOPTING EUROPEAN COUTURE.

The Peking Cabinet has decided that military and naval officers of all grades, the army, navy, police force and all scholars of colleges are to adopt Western costume. The Cabinet proposes shortly to memorialize the Throne to have it enforced.

FOREIGN POLICE TO BE REWARDED.

About two years ago a reward of \$4,000 was offered by the local authorities for the capture of the notorious pirate Lum Chung Yent. They were unable to locate him until lately, when the authorities discovered that he had taken refuge in Annam. Lum was surrendered to the local authorities by the French Government a few days ago. The Government has ordered the gunboat Kwong Kam to convey the \$4,000 reward to Annam, which will be distributed amongst the police who took part in the capture of Lum.

SUN NING RAILWAY.

Lately a Sun Ning gentleman, Yu Kin Yew, memorialised Viceroy Shum saying that the capital for the building of the Sun Ning line had been fully subscribed and requested His Excellency to issue a decree for commencing the work and to sanction the extension of the line to Hoi Ping and Sun Woi. The Viceroy has issued an order to the Sin-hau-kok to call before them the petitioner and others on the 28th instant to investigate thoroughly into and report upon the matter, previous to the issuing of the decree.

COUNTERFEIT DEALER ARRESTED.

On the 27th instant the Chief Superintendent of Police of Canton, Ting T'ai, received information that Lo Lan Po, the notorious counterfeit coin dealer, was staying in the Hing board house near Chuk Lan Kew. Ting T'ai went personally with several police and arrested him. A large quantity of base coin was found in his possession. Lo has since confessed to his crimes; but said his coins were not as base as those of his counterfeiters, as \$10 worth of his coins would always fetch \$9 in the market!

A NEW PAPER.

A Sun Ning man named Li has started a new paper called the Kwun Po (羣報). His "programme" is to "promote union amongst the Cantonese people."

The Chefoo Daily News of Sept. 12 says:—The remains of a wealthy Chinese merchant named Heun, who, on account of his excessive meanness, was nicknamed "The Beggar," were interred yesterday. There is likely to be some litigation over his fortune of half a million dollars as he died childless and some eight of his nephews assert that they were his adopted sons.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GRIFFIN'S EXPENSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR It was with feelings akin to dismay that I read your leader in to-day's Daily Press and the cost of living in Hongkong. After several years' experience of life in the Far East I am compelled to disagree with your statement that a bachelor can house and feed himself respectably on the modest sum of \$30 per month. That statement, to say the least of it, is not only most misleading, but calculated to create a wrong impression, both in the mind of the Taipan, and that of the prospective griffin; especially coming, as it does, with the editorial imprimatur.

The grievances voiced by "Griffin" in the columns of the N. C. Daily News are by no means peculiar to Shanghai, as many a Hongkong griffin knows to his cost. He suffers in precisely the same way, and in nine cases out of ten he is the victim of gross misrepresentation at the other end.

I cannot say much about the cost of living in Shanghai, but it appears to me that \$188 per month is, indeed, a modest sum for a domesticated Englishman, with a taste for something a cut above the common lodging house, to expend. One thing I do know, and that is, \$188 per month would do precious little in Hongkong, where the necessities of life are becoming more and more expensive every day, house rent in particular going up by leaps and bounds.

Now, Mr. Editor, before proceeding any further it will be well for us to realise that hotels and boarding establishments in this colony are run with a view to making money and not as philanthropic institutions, moreover the proprietors expect a good percentage on their outlay—and they get it! at whose expense I leave you to decide.

As I have previously stated, I have had several years in Hongkong, and perhaps my experiences in the way of housekeeping, etc.—which are the same, I imagine, as the majority of similarly situated young men in this colony—may lead you to modify your views somewhat.

My first attempt was in a well-known boarding establishment on the lower level, and it was necessary to climb many stairs before entering the sacred portals of this "first class residential quarter" as it was grandiloquently termed in the advertisement. The arrangement we came to was that I should pay \$75 per month and share the room. The chow was bad, the attendance ditto, and the bathroom, which was situated at the other end of the house, a glorified pig-sty; and it was apparently occupied as a bedroom by the amah at night-time.

My second attempt introduced me to the mysteries of hotel life in the Far East, and I was informed that \$110 was quite the lowest figure possible, unless I cared to share the room, in which case they would see if they could make it \$95. This I tried, and what with tips for boys, articles of clothing mysteriously disappearing, hotel chits and washerman's bills, the monthly account ran up to \$150, and no luxuries thrown in!

Sickenings of hotel life I decided to join a "Me-s." Here, at last, I should be able to live with comparative comfort and save a little. I was informed that my contribution need never exceed \$75. Alas! my bill for the first month was \$95 for the bare necessities of living. Next month being colder we started fires in the house: bill \$10. The third month we paid the No. 1 boy \$30 per month per head for chow and shared the remaining expenses. First week: how fair. Second week: Chow is different. Third week: Chow distinctly off (much ructions in the cook house). Fourth week: No cook, chow impossible, Mess went bung.

Hearing now that I could get a good room at one of the smaller hotels for 75 per month, I asked to see it, and, although the air was and landing were imposing enough the room was nothing more than a cubicle, and not large enough to swing a cat round, moreover the occupant of the next arrangement was surreptitiously peeping over the partition to see who the poor unfortunate was that was in all probability to be his stable companion.

These, Mr. Editor, are my experiences, and now I am prepared to pay anything for even a semblance of comfort and decency. \$75 may keep a man for a month, but it is by no means comfortable, in fact hardly respectable.—Yours, etc.,

"HONGKONG EX-GRIFFIN."

Hongkong, 21st September, 1905.

SOME HONGKONG FIGURES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I have just completed my first year in Hongkong, and I am still, I suppose, a griffin, but my experiences may help in the discussion about living expenses, &c. My salary is \$20 a month which even with the dollar at 1s. 10d. is about three times what I got at home; and if my taipan is willing to renounce my agreement I do not want to go back. Things were cheaper at home (clerks included) but it took me six years to save what I have managed to hoard up here in twelve months—eleven, I may say, for there was one month when I went "the pace," and paid the greater part of my surplus away for chits. I sign no more now. Beside that, I got only two per cent for my savings, and, now I get four and five. My monthly expenses work out pretty much as follows:—

Board, lodging, and attendance	...\$75
Washing	... 3
Boots and shoes	... 2
Clothes (renewals)	... 8
Ricsha and trams (walking is cheap exercise)	... 1
Tobacco (pipe)	... 4
Recreations (Swimming, cycling, and reading)	... 0
Pocket money (for small curies, souvenirs, refreshments, postage, &c.)	... 7

Total ... \$ 00

The other half goes into the bank; I never miss it; I pretend my salary is only the \$100, and if I take a fancy to buy anything which would mean breaking into the savings, I go without until I am "flush" enough without doing so.

Trusting that this may be of use,—Yours truly,

"THRIFTY LAD."

GRIFFINS AND THEIR EXPENSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

23rd September, 1905.

SIR,—I have read with interest your editorial and correspondence on the griffins of to-day and their various experiences; and so far have never thought it worth while to answer a press letter; but the statement of monthly expenses given by "Thrifty Lad" ought not to pass unchallenged, as anyone seeing it at home would have quite as wrong ideas as those given by the Taipans at home, or rather as is said is given by the home merchants.

In the first place I would like to say that I came out here under no misapprehension, as I was told that on a salary of \$200 I would be able to save very little, and that I think is fairly correct. Personally I am a teetotaller, so that "Cocktail Hall" has no claims for me; but at the same time a club is necessary if one wants to come into contact with other people, read the home papers and mix in society the equal to what one is used to at home; so that must be put down in the account.

Secondly, "Thrifty Lad" may be satisfied with a boarding house at \$75 in the town, but it all depends on what his circumstances in England were. However, that can pass. Also the other item regarding washing, though I would point out that living in a place that must not be over clean, and in summer is boiling, \$3 per month is not extravagant for washing even if a Chinese laundry is patronised with its subsequent evils.

Our friend also sends, on what he calls "renewals," \$8 per month for clothes. One dozen white suits cost \$4 per month, and the man never came out to Hongkong in the whole course of its existence who had an outfit that was so complete that nothing else need be bought. In fact in most cases it is very much the other way about.

Walking is cheap exercise, as he says, but only taking \$1 for trams, Ricshas, Chair, and Ferry is to say the least of it laughable.

However, the last two items are the worst, and I am sorry to think that anybody from the old country should so misrepresent matters.

This lad has no swimming, no cycling, no tennis, no cricket, no football, no cigars, no drinks of any kind whatever, (and living on the lower level, this kind of it); and—can it be written—no reading. Mr. Editor, is it possible? Are there many in the colony like this? How will they increase your circulation? And when he takes a "fancy" to anything he "saves" out of the \$100 and so does not spend any more? Really Sir, this "Thrifty Lad" must be a Scotchman who wrote his experience in a sarcastic vein and is now chuckling to himself at the astonished queries that are going about "how does he do it?"

When I say that to live in this colony on the following amount, I do not look at life from the standpoint of either the one who thinks himself equal in all respects to a taipan, or one who has been brought up in a peasant's hut, but merely as a normal being who is used to being comfortable and can command a salary to make one so.

Board, lodging and attendance	\$ 90
Washing	6
Clothes	15
Ricsha, Trams, Chairs, Ferry	10
Smoking	7
Club (or Y. M. C. A. with recreations)	10
Boots	3
Sundries	10
Swimming, Cricket, Football or Tennis	5
Chemist (soap, dentifrice, etc.)	5
Amusements	5
	\$ 66

You will see that the \$160 does not leave anything for "small curies," etc., and I am not going to wind up by saying that when "I take a fancy to buy anything—I wait until I am flush," as many things that one can't put down in an account and that do not happen every month have to be paid for, so that the old \$4 dollars are not net profit.

This question depends very much, of course, upon how one lives, but I defy even an Oldham weaver saving up for the "wakes" to say that the above is extravagant or not necessary, when you take into consideration the fact that one has not been economical unless you can show that you are also better in mind and body after your engagement is finished. You will notice that the above table does not include any charge for studying anything, for which the charges in Hongkong are not small.—Yours faithfully,

LANCASTRIAN.

Y.M.C.A. AND SOLDIERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—With reference to previous correspondence concerning the non-admission of soldiers to the Y.M.C.A., may I be allowed—through the medium of your paper—to ask the religious people of the Colony if they approve of such proceedings. In the course of a few months a good number of soldiers leave the Colony for Home, and I dare say they will not omit to make it as widely known as possible that the Y.M.C.A. here is a closed door to the soldier. Would it not be very regrettable if, when doing so, they would be able to say that real Christians failed to disapprove? I am etc.

DUNERA.

The Foochow Echo of Sept. 23 contains a highly appreciative obituary reference to the late Mr. Paul Bender, head of the customs out door staff at Foochow. A German, aged only 36 years, Mr. Bender had spent an adventurous and useful life. He began on sailing vessels and sealers; joined the Customs at Canton in 1895; was transferred to Kowloon in the same year; and rapidly worked his way up. He went to Foochow in 1899, and in two years was an accomplished Mandarin scholar.

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP.

CONSECRATION AT HONGKONG.

A very impressive and interesting ceremony took place on the 1st October at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, this being the consecration of the Right Rev. Dominico Pozzoni, the Bishop of Savia and Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong. The Consecrating Prelate was Bishop M. Nicetti, who was assisted by Bishop Clemente of Amoy and Bishop Mérel of Canton. The cathedral was decorated in red and white cloth festoons for the occasion, and the effect was very pleasing. The congregation was exceptionally numerous, and amongst those present were Mr. R. A. B. Ponsonby, representing H.E. the Governor; Admiral Jonquieres and several officers of the French cruiser *Guichen*; the Consul General for Portugal and Brazil, Senhor Conselheiro Romano; the Consul General for Italy, Chev. Volpicelli; the Consul for France, Belgium, Spain and Peru; the vice-consul for Portugal, and a mandarin from Canton, who were all accommodated in special seats. Special accommodation was also provided for the presidents of the various religious congregations in the Colony. The attendance of the clergy was large and representative, and included the Rev. Ilidio de Gouveia, the Dean of Macao, representing the Bishop of Macao; Father Arkwright, representative of the Jesuit Fathers of Macao; Fathers Floreau representing the clergy of Canton; A. Brun J. Leroux, representing the Marie-Bethanie Hospital; Father Noval; and all the priests of the French, Spanish and Italian missions, together with the Christian brothers and the sisters from the French and the Italian convents. The Rev. G. Spada acted as the master of ceremonies. The service began at 8.15, and after the Bishops had robed, the Very Rev. Father de Maria (the Pro-Vicar Apostolic) read the Apostolic mandate. The Bishop-elect having taken the usual oath before the Consecrating Prelate, the various rites of the consecration were gone through, the very solemn ceremony lasting for about two and a half hours. After the new Bishop had been anointed he was invested with the crozier, cross, ring, gloves and mitre (which had been previously blessed) and then placed on his seat by the consecrating Bishop. The *Te Deum* was afterwards sung by the choir and the clergy, during which the Assistant Bishops conducted the new Bishop round the church, who, as he passed, gave his blessing to the people. We understand that the crozier and the cross were from the late Bishop Piazza's, while the ring (which was presented by Mrs. Romano) was very beautiful, being set in carbuncle and diamond. After the new Bishop had returned to his seat, the Consecrating and Assistant Bishops, without mitres, stood at the Gospel side, the new Bishop went to the middle of the altar where signing himself with the cross, he gave his blessing to the congregation. The Consecrating and Assistant Bishops remained as before, standing on the Gospel side, in their mitres, looking towards the new Bishop, who proceeded from the Epistle side towards them, making in the way three reverences, and at each reverence saying to them: *Ad multos annos*. He was then received with the kiss of peace by the other Bishops, who conducted him away, after saying the last Gospel of the Mass.

At the conclusion of the consecration service the various consuls and naval officers and the clergy retired to the Mission House to pay their congratulations to the new dignitary in his rooms.

At 4 p.m. the various congregations and other religious institutions presented their addresses, including one from the native Christian, to the new Bishop, who returned thanks, expressing his acknowledgments in English.

A special feature was the large number of native Christians who came over from their villages to attend the service.

PRESENTATION AT KOWLOON DOCKS.

The staff of the Kowloon docks assemble to day farewell and make a presentation to Mr. John Wilkie Chief Clerk Mr. T. Neave Superintendent Engineer, occupying the chair said Mr. Wilkie had practically grown up with the Dock Co., having been in its service for the period of 20 years. During his six years with the Dock Co. the chairman had always found Mr. Wilkie most obliging always ready and willing to help a fellow employee; and always a very hard worker and a thorough business man. He called upon Mr. Rutter, who had been in the Dock Co. even longer than Mr. Wilkie, to say a few words and make the presentation.

Mr. Rutter said the man who could not get on with Mr. Wilkie must have been a hard man to please; he had not only been heartily with them in their work, but had also joined enthusiastically in their sports. There were still quite a few men in Hongkong who would remember running up against the formidable Wilkie in the football field, and again, he had been their tennis champion for quite a number of years. On behalf of the Dock staff, he (Mr. Rutter) had much pleasure in handing over a very handsome gold watch as a mark of their esteem and respect, as well as a diamond brooch for Mrs. Wilkie.

Several of the servants of the Dock Co., testified to their experience with and under the direct orders of Mr. Wilkie. Notable among these was Mr. J. J. Gomes, who has been with the Dock Co., for about 23 years.

Mr. Wilkie thanked his kind friends with some feeling remarking that very many changes had taken place in the personnel of the staff. He thought that only ten members, who were with the Dock Co., when he joined in 1886, were still active members of the staff. He was very sorry to sever his connection with the company, but, as they were aware, he had received an opportunity to better his position in life and, as it was every man's duty to push ahead, he embraced the offer. [Mr. Wilkie becomes a partner in the firm of Macdonald & Co., engineers and surveyors.] He considered the staff he was leaving an able one. Regarding the sporting side of the members, they had taken leading positions, at various periods, in every branch of sport, except golf and horse-racing, which were luxuries too expensive for men of limited means. In billiards, Messrs. Rutter, Parkes, Heaton, figured as cracks; in football Messrs. Henderson, Wilson, Lapsley, and Heron; in tennis Messrs. Duncan and Cleland; in swimming Messrs. Lapsley, Cooke, and Witchell; in rowing, Messrs. Wilson, Henderson, Witchell, and Lapsley; in cricket, Messrs. Lightfoot, Dixon, and Heron; and in the domain of lawn bowls the experts were so numerous that he dared not particularise. The staff had not devoted all their time to games, for Volunteering had claimed a good deal of attention, and made a sideboard bore evidence of the prowess of the staff as teams and individuals, and no inter-tribe team was complete without a sprinkling of the D.C.R. Shots. Former cracks were Messrs. Stewart and Henderson, and Messrs. Gow, Lapsley and Parkes were the shining lights of the present day. They had given three officers to the H.K.V. Corps in the persons of Captains Mitchell and Macdonald and Lieut. Graham. Their fame as entertainers was well known, and, whether a concert or practice dance was on—their hospitality was eye to the fore. Their H. G. manay Annual Dinner was voted one of the most enjoyable of the season, thanks to the hard working secretary and committee. He would refer to another good trait of character, viz. their good-heartedness when any of their countrymen or women were in need of help, and he was sure, no class of men, similarly situated, in the Far East, were more liberal.

The remainder of this pleasant evening was spent in anecdote and song; the items being contributed by Messrs. Baxter, Parris, Crawford, Wynne, Henderson, Ibbitt, Ramsay, Forbes, Rutter, Taylor, Stewart, Cleland, and, E. O. Murphy (of Messrs. Bailey & Murphy).

POLICE COURT.

Saturday, 30th September.

BEFORE MR. G. N. ORME (SECOND POLICE MAGISTRATE).

DUMPING RUBBISH AND ASSAULT.

Captain Sisco of the s.s. *Bourbon* appeared before his Worship to answer the charges of dumping rubbish in the harbour and assaulting Lance-Sergeant Wills of the Water Police. He pleaded not guilty to the charges.

L. S. Wills stated that while patrolling the harbour on the 27th instant, the coxswain of his pinnace drew his attention to the quantity of rubbish which had been dumped. This was near the *Bourbon* and witness went on board the ship and asked for the captain. On his appearance the sergeant told him about the quantity of rubbish dumped, and asked him if he would point out the man who did it. The captain flew into such a rage that witness thought he had taken leave of his senses. He was told he would be summoned if he did not point out the man who dumped the rubbish. Witness then went to the lower deck. The defendant followed him, and as he knocked his hat off he said: "Get off my ship directly," pushing him shoreward the while.

Inspector Langley—I should like to remind your Worship that in the last case of this kind you inflicted a fine of \$5, and said you would double the fine in the next case brought before you. I would also ask your worship to make it clear to the captain that the police have a right to board ships under the merchant shipping act as he apparently is labouring under a misapprehension on that point.

O. Thomas, second engineer of the s.s. *Bourbon*, said he heard a noise on deck, and heard the captain tell the constable to return to his launch. He did not notice whether there was any rubbish on the water.

Lau Fat, another of the ship's engineers, testified as to seeing the captain order the constable off the vessel. He did not see him push the sergeant, or knock his hat off. A strong wind which prevailed blew some rubbish overboard. Witness saw some rubbish blown out of the 'tween decks through a porthole.

Inspector Langley—Can you say how the wind got down to the 'tween decks?

Witness—I cannot.

Defendant—Your worship, sampans were working alongside the steamer discharging and taking in cargo, and some rubbish may have dropped overboard from these craft.

His Worship—Don't you know it is your duty to assist the police in preventing the dumping of rubbish?

Defendant—Yes, your Worship.

His Worship—Well you did not do so in this instance.

Defendant—I have done so on a previous occasion.

Inspector Langley—On that occasion, your Worship, his vessel brought 45 undesirable here from Saigon, and when the police boarded his ship he refused to acknowledge that he had them on board.

Defendant—he constable boarded my ship, in a very impudent manner, and I promptly told him to get off.

Inspector Langley—I do not wish to press for a heavy penalty regarding the rubbish dumping, your Worship, but I do ask that it be made clear to the captain that he must treat the police properly. Apparently, he imagines that the *Bourbon* has the status of a man-of-war, whereas she is in reality a tramp.

Defendant—The policeman boarded my vessel with his hat on, which he had no right to do.

His Worship—Oh, yes, he had. His hat is part of his uniform. If you treat the police properly, and assisted them in the execution of their duty instead of obstructing them, you would find they would treat you with every consideration. On each charge I order you to pay a fine of \$5.

REVIEWS.

The Pith of the Classics: the Chinese Classics in Every-day Life: or Quotations from the Chinese Classics in Colloquial Use. By J. DYER BALL, M.R.A.S. Hongkong: Norhona & Co. \$2.

That humorous title suggests that Professor Ball was at a loss which of the eternal titles to discard, and that he put them all down, in despair of making up his mind. This was a pity, for a good book deserves a good title, and a good title is one that is conveniently memorised and repeated. We suggest "Chinese Adages, from the Classics," as a better. The argument of the preface is all to show that these quotations are in such general use that they have become adages; "the object of this book . . . was to only give those which are in common use and understood by the great mass of the people." Apparently the Chinese in conversation are fond of dragging in a hackneyed quotation (all hackneyed quotations are adages, ipso facto) and twisting them to fit the time and case. "If he has not reached the age of forty and fifty and has not made himself heard of," for instance, is altered to "I am forty or fifty and haven't a cash." This reminds us of the way in which the philistines of England will often quote Shakespeare's fine emphasisation of the value of reputation, without thinking for a moment of its original application, and divorcing it from its context. Some petty payment is in question. The young man, giggling at the aptness of it, and proud of his ready wit, murmurs: "Who steals my purse steals trash," meaning only that his finances are at a low ebb. This habit is so common, and its Chinese examples evidently so exactly similar, that we regard the author's explanations of the possible uses (or misuses?) of some of the quotations as prolix. It is evident, for instance, that our old friend, "Evil communications corrupt good manners" is present in the Chinese: 無友不如己者

yet we are told gravely that it is used to advise people to have nothing to do with bad company.

To remove any suspicion of carping, we had better stop to mention that we like the idea of this book, and agree that it will be of great use to students of colloquial Chinese who wish to improve their conversational powers and get on a more sympathetic footing with their native acquaintances. These quotations from the Four Books will be scanned with considerable interest even by those who have no Chinese smattering, for it is patent that in such a collection of the favourite quotations from the classics we have good evidence of the thought processes of the masses. And while some of the explanations may be prolix, as we have said, there are many that are helpful and suggestive.

The well-known 一言以蔽之 is a very useful phrase to memorise practically, as coming from a foreign devil it should startle the most garrulous servant into brevity. It is not difficult to imagine how much trouble has been caused by the adage "The study of strange doctrines is injurious, indeed," especially when the author explains that, as is to be expected, it can be applied to any new thing, apart from doctrines. All men are liars, and perhaps we have no right to criticise, but it is strange to read that an adage is regularly used among the most ready prevaricators on earth, is one saying that without truthfulness a man cannot get on. A bad example of the "explanations" better left out is that on page 45, where the translation "If he can bear to do this, what may he not bear to do?" has its usual explanation "If anyone does a certain thing what will that person then not do?"—for which, if anything was required at all, we should have thought the formula "If he'll do that he'll do anything" would have been apter. We are told that the text "When he entered the Grand Temple (he) asked about everything" is often used as an excuse for inquisitiveness, in this way: "The Master was inquisitive so I can be." This reminds us of the people who quote Paul's advice to Timothy as an excuse for drinking or Christ's words in the corn field as an excuse for Sabbath-breaking, or His anger with the money changers in the Temple as an excuse for bad temper! "Things that are past, it is needless to bemoan" is followed by the comment:

"Use. As the sense of the passage shows." In the author's place we would have substituted for that bald remark the obvious equivalent, "No use crying over spilt milk." One for which we can recall no foreign equivalent (and there ought to be one) is "Straightforwardness, without the rules of propriety, becomes rudeness." It does, as all know who meet the man who boasts of always speaking his mind! On page 20 there is an allusion to the universal practice in Hongkong of styling a "Boy" a 先生 (a title of respect belonging properly to a man who knows how to use pen and ink). Perhaps that is why Hongkong "boys" are so uppish and cheeky. "The mechanic who wishes to do his work well, must first sharpen his tools" is "used when one has bad tools, or a bad pen, etc." Don't the Chinese ever use it in the sense of "Keep your powder dry," then? The Chinese version of "You cannot get blood out of a stone" seems to be "You cannot get juice out of an iron pear."

Bound up in this book, and having to be traversed before one can come at the index, are no less than 26 pages of press notices, including the dicta of the Y.M.C.A. Bulletin on some lectures delivered by the author. These could have been dispensed with without injuring it. The book itself is well printed and cleanly read. It does not open flat, and before this review was half written the reviewer's copy had fallen to pieces, owing to the strain of the stitches on the edges of the pressed open pages. That exhausts the uncomplimentary possibilities; and it only remains to be said that a second series, as half promised, will be a welcome addition to the list of useful books which this indefatigable and able sinologue has produced.

A CHINESE "HOUSE OF LORDS."

A private letter from Peking states that the Empress Dowager has decided to establish for the present only what may be called an Upper House of Legislature, to be composed of the Viceroys and Governors of all the provinces of the Empire, who are to go up to Peking once a year to confer on matters of national importance. At other times, while in the provinces, a Viceroy, if any business of importance arises, shall confer with the Governor or Governor under him, and a Governor with the Provincial Treasurer, Provincial Judge, Salt Commissioner and substantive Taotais, generically termed "Sze-tao," under him. Prefects, sub-prefects, and departmental and district magistrates shall confer with the gentry and nobles of their respective cities, and when the community have anything to propose they shall have to present their proposals to their own gentry and nobles, who shall bring them to the notice of the officials immediately over them. This method of "popular" government will continue until education becomes more general and the masses understand better their individual responsibilities and duties of citizenship.

CLOSING A CHINESE PORT.

Considerable dissatisfaction has naturally arisen in local shipping circles over the action of the authorities at Lui Chow in prohibiting further trade with that place on the part of foreign merchants. It appears that some time ago through the application of the French Administrator of Kwang Chow Wan, the mandarin at Lui Chow allowed a steamer sailing the French flag to enter the port and trade with foreign ports. This permission was given three years ago, and since then vessels under the British, German, Italian and Portuguese flags had entered the port, paid all charges and likins exacted by the Chinese authorities, and had made the place a trading port. It was not opened by any decree or treaty but was opened in fact by the traders concerned. Now the Viceroy of Canton, influenced it is suggested by certain classes of people, has given orders not to allow any steamer to enter, but as there has been no official notification of this sent to the representatives of the countries interested we understand that several steamers intend proceeding there in spite of the prohibition. It remains for the Consular authorities to discuss whether

the action of the Viceroy is in accordance with that progressive policy which China is believed to be enunciating.

ALLEGED MURDER AT KOWLOON.

On Sept. 21st the police were apprised of an occurrence at Kowloon which at first sight bears indications of murder or manslaughter. A coolie named Yau Kam, came down from the country to inform a coolie employed by a local contractor that his father was sick and expressing the wish that he should return home. This desire was conveyed to the contractor who refused to allow his employee to go, an altercation ensued between the coolie who brought the message and the contractor, but the quarrel was not confined to the two. Others interfered and apparently Yau Kam was set upon by several and so violently beaten that he succumbed about an hour afterwards, at 5.30, outside the Police Station. The affair took place on the Reclamation Works at Tsim'satsui.

At the Magistracy on Sept. 22 four men were brought before Mr. G. N. Orme in connection with the fatal affray. Their names were Wang Hing, Yan Tum, Wong Hong and Lui Sin, and they were charged with the wilful murder of Yau Kam at Kowloon on September 21st. Inspector Langley asked for a remand till to-day, a request which was granted.

The post mortem examination which took place on Sept. 22nd revealed the cause of death to be rupture of the spleen. The deceased was found to have an enlarged spleen, and was kicked thereon by two of his assailants.

UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS.

The *Japan Chronicle* observes:—It seems that the authorities at Hongkong are at last taking determined action to prevent the indiscriminate dumping of undesirable into the Colony. The French authorities at Saigon have for some years past been in the habit of banishing undesirable Chinese to Hongkong, and have thereby caused local police authorities to be troubled with a large number of imported criminals. Hunting the emen out, once they were liberated in the Colony, was no easy task, and often they were not discovered until some crime had been committed. The water police took them matter in hand and an arrangement was entered into with the French Government under which the Saigon authorities have now given warning of the arrival of banished criminals, together with a list of their names, and thus the police are able to meet them on arrival and prevent them from landing. A batch of 39 particularly evil-looking Chinese criminals arrived from Saigon by the steamer *Laurent* recently, and under this new arrangement were at once taken in charge by the water police, and banishment orders having been made out against them, they were passed on to adjacent Chinese ports. However desirable such an arrangement may be from Hongkong's point of view, it would seem to be so much the worse for the "adjacent ports" where the administration is not so well organized and able to deal with such people as is the case at Hongkong.

LANDSLIP ON THE PRAYA.

A landslip occurred on the Praya West, opposite the Kee Wing buildings, on Sept. 3rd, just before 10 o'clock. Without warning, part of the ground in the middle of the road sunk, leaving a circular hole of about four or five feet in diameter. When this was approached, it was seen that the subsidence was greater than at first appeared. From the mouth, the hole gradually widened to a diameter of about ten feet, being in shape like an egg, while in depth it was about twelve or fourteen feet. The concrete had apparently kept the surface from slipping further than it did. Fortunately, no one was injured and the hole was quickly barricaded.

THE NEW COMMODORE.

Commodore Williams—who succeeds to the Hongkong command. Commodore Dicken having been promoted to the rank of rear admiral—arrived on Sept. 26 from England via Vancouver by the C.P. steamer *Empress of China*. He is accompanied by Mrs. Williams and family. Rear Admiral Dicken leaves on Saturday week on board the *Nubia*.

There were no formalities attending the advent of his successor.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At a sale of crown land held at the offices of the Public Works Department on September 25th, the letting by public auction of Tai Hang Lot was offered. There was only one bidder, Mr. Chan Tai, to whom the lot was knocked down for \$4,370, being \$20 above the upset price.

The troubles at Tokyo and Yokohama have had one result not altogether bad; they have suppressed the threadbare idyll of the gentle Japanese policeman and the respectful criminal, who gracefully obeyed the invitation, "Esteemed criminal deign condescendingly to enter august gaol."

There is much conjecture as to why H.M.S. *Astræa* is going home via Labuan with the *St. Dunstan* (dredger) in tow. The reason, we learn, is that there is to be a court martial at Labuan on a seaman for striking an officer, and the President of a Naval Court must be a post captain. Captain Tufnell of the *Astræa* is going to Labuan as president of the court.

H.M.S. *Iphigenia*, instead of the *Astræa*, is to tow the Government dredger *St. Dunstan* to Labuan. The *Iphigenia* is thus again delayed getting home to England, having recently been sent to Amoy to cope with the local riot on the eve of departure for home. She will go to Labuan for the Naval Court Martial to be held there—of which Court Captain W. B. Fawcener will be president. Thence, all being well, she will proceed to England. The *St. Dunstan* is a heavy boat to be towed by the *Iphigenia* (3,600 tons) and, should rough weather be experienced, will be somewhat of a handful. H.M.S. *Flora* is the *Iphigenia*'s relief for the China Squadron.

German traders are exercising their minds as to the country's consular representation in Manchuria. Before the war German commercial interests in this region were looked after by a commercial agent stationed at Vladyvostok. Should, however, Port Arthur and Dairen, or any large part of Manchuria, now pass into the hands of Japan, the German Consulate there will no longer suffice. "However the peace negotiations may terminate," says the *Hamburger Nachrichten*, "we think it not inappropriate to remind the department in question in Berlin that it is a matter of the most urgent importance in view of the German export industries to establish consulates both at Dairen and at Newchwang without delay."

Ricsha coolies' backs are the latest spaces to be exploited for "moral" advertising. The *Singapore Free Press* says:—The latest local advertising enterprise is no doubt the result of the working of a great business brain, but when the resident who has not the means to "run a dogcart," and perforce adopt the ricsha as his mode of locomotion, meets it for the first time he will receive a shock. A roiling individual last evening left the office for home, took his seat in the ricsha and noticed blazing on the back of the coolie the virtues in large print and gay colouring of a certain tropical tonic. The journey was not humorous to the person riding. This it seems is one way by which the ricsha puller may increase his stock of cents, and it does credit to the poetic imagination of the gentleman who evolved it, but we hope it has not come to stay.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular, dated Shanghai, 18th September, states:—Black Tea.—The only business to report is a few settlements of Common Tea amounting to 1,500 half-chests at Tls. 14-18 per picul by a native for shipment to Vladivostok. Total Settlements to date:—8,914 half-chests against 14,799 half-chests same date last year; stock, 9,180 half-chests against 11,669 half-chests same date last year. Green Teas.—Pingsuey.—A very fair business has been done in chops at Tls. 29-33 per picul showing a strong market. Teamen are not overstocking the market with musters, only putting forward sufficient samples to meet the demand. County Teas.—The demand continues for "Fine to Choice" quality Tea, and the market is strong. We estimate the supply of "Fine to Choice" quality Tea will be 10 per cent. less than last year. During the first week of the interval under review the market for "Medium" quality Tea was weak and Teamen were endeavouring to get renewal of offers once refused, and a very fair business was put through; the market recovered and at the close is much firmer. The market for Common Tea is unchanged. Local Packs and Wenchows.—Only a small business has been done at prices that show a strong market. Hyson.—The market is rather quiet for "Good" quality Tea; a very fair business has been put through in Medium quality at slightly weaker rates. Common qualities are not in demand, but the few settlements reported show no decline in price. Foong Mees.—The market is steady for Fine Tea, Medium Teas are weak with little doing, Common quality has declined Tls. 1-2 per picul. Sou Mees.—"Fine to Choice" qualities are in strong demand for Batoum at previous prices. Other qualities are only in small demand and the market shows signs of weakness. Total settlements since 4th inst.:—25,138 half-chests. Total settlements since opening of market to date:—153,633 half-chests against 202,651 half-chests last year; stock, 42,193 half-chests against 56,864 half-chests last year. Settlements of Hyson and Young Hyson since opening of the market to date:—Arrivals 118,392 half-chests, settlements 92,293 half-chests, stock 26,099 half-chests.

HANKOW, 18th September.—Business reported since the 13th inst., is as under:—

	1905.	1904.
Settlements	1,661	4,608
Settlements to Shanghai (Nat. a/c)	nil.	5,705

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 21st September, 1904:—

	1905.	1904.
HANKOW TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements	436,532	583,841
Settlements to Shanghai (Nat. a/c)	11,323	16,325
Stock	42,795	10,368

Arrivals ... 490,650 610,534

	1905.	1904.
KIUKIANG TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements	177,880	195,538
Settlements to Shanghai (Nat. a/c)	3,401	18,037
Stock	6,375	nil.

Arrivals ... 187,659 213,575

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Son's Circular, dated Shanghai, 16th September, 1905, states:—The Home Markets are quiet. Gold Killing is quoted in London at 12/4 and in Lyons at Fcs. 34 50. Raw Silk.—Market is strong but very quiet, the prices now asked coupled with the high Exchange have practically caused a cessation of business. Yellow Silk.—A moderate business has been done at advanced rates. Hand Filatures.—A little business doing for America. Steam Filatures.—A few sales have been made at high prices, but most of the Filatures are fully engaged until the New Year. Tussock Filatures.—A fair business is recorded for America. Waste Silk.—Dealers are asking high prices for Curries I and no further business has been done. Kading Frisonets (whole Bales) have been sold at Tls. 29 1/2. Long Shantung B has arrived and dealers are asking 28/30 according to quality.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 30th September.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1080	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1170	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$1200	to	—	do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1260	to	—	do.
Persian fine quality	\$1070	to	—	do.
Persian extra fine	\$1140	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$997 1/2	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	\$1027 1/2	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$982 1/2	to	—	do.
Benares Old	\$997 1/2	to	—	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 21st September, 1905, states:—Since our circular on the 14th instant the Piece Goods market has been very quiet as far as Importers are concerned, and as regards business from first hands it can easily be placed first as the dullest for some considerable time past. Importers have, however, still been fully occupied in turning over the damages caused by the late typhoon. In many instances buyers have accepted goods with allowances from prompt clearance, but on the other hand much has been rejected and been realized at Auction, where prices have been of an in and out nature. New cases of damages keep turning up, and at the moment it is premature to even estimate the damage done. Clearances we are told have been good, but taken on a whole we doubt it. It must not be forgotten that in the earlier part of this month scarcely anything was taken away and that, practically speaking, three weeks deliveries have been made in ten days. Apart from the attraction of the damaged cargo auctions there is little doubt that there are orders in the market for certain classes of goods, and Natives themselves admit that a considerable business could be done with Vladivostok if steamers could only be found to carry the goods, shipment from here being impossible as Japan still retains her privilege to seize steamers until Peace has been properly ratified. Both the Northern markets and the River Ports have been clearing well, but no new business is reported. The Manchester market in quoted quiet but firm while Mid-American in Liverpool is quoted 5.52d. and Egyptian at 7.44d. From New York there is not much of importance beyond a reported sale of Lora A 3-yard Sheetings 11s. 4d. for spring delivery. The export from Lanchow for this month, up to 15th instant, amounted to 9,000,000 yards which is the smallest amount for some time past. Yarns have been in fairly good demand, Newchwang again making the greater portion of the purchases.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd October.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	140.00 to 160.00
" 22 to 24, ...	160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32, ...	167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42, ...	180.00 to 190.00

Reported sales 6, 00 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25
" 7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
" 8 1/2 lbs.	3.00 to 4.00
" 9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 58 rd.	2.80 to 3.00
" 58 to 60 "	3.10 to 3.60
" 64 to 68 "	3.80 to 5.40
" Fine	6.10 to 8.00
" Book-folds	5.30 to 8.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.80 to 1.00
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.20 to 2.30
" 7lbs. (32 "), "	2.70 to 3.00
" 6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.70
" 7lbs. (32 "), "	2.90 to 3.20
" 8 to 8 1/2 oz., (38 in.)	3.25 to 3.80
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2 "	6.10 to 8.00
" to 14 lbs. "	"

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 8 lbs.	1.80 to 3.85
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Brocades—Dyed	0.12 1/2 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted	0.09 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22 1/2 to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in.	0.22 1/2 to 0.26

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.60 to 1.50

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.65 to 2.50
German	0.65 to 0.90
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.50 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs.	7.80 to 9.25
Assorted	7.95 to 9.40
Camlets—Assorted	13.00 to 33.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches	13.00 to 21.00
Assorted	"
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	8.50 to 10.00
Blankets—5 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 1.50
METALS—	per picul.
Iron—Nail Rod	3.95 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	3.90 to —
Swedish Bar	3.95 to —
Small Round Rod	4.25 to —
Hoop 1 to 1 1/2 in.	6.20 to —
Wire, 16/25 oz.	9.50 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.00 to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	9.10 to —
Australian	9.10 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	39.50 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	39.50 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	39.50 to —

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, Sept. 20th, 1905.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Cowhides, Best Selected	Per picul. Tls. 34.50
Do. Seconds	30.50
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	17.50
Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white color	(nom.)
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	7.80
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	12.50
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	11.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	10.50
Jute	4.75
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.30
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	11.80
Animal Tallow	11.00
Gallnuts, Usual shape	17.50
Do. Plum do.	18.50
Tobacco, Tingchow	(nom.)
Do. Woukong	"
Black Bristles	115.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	(nom.)
" " Wild Duck	"
Turmeric	3.75
Sesamum Seed	4.00
Sesamum Seed Oil	8.00
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	"
Wood Oil	8.40
Tea Oil	(nom.)

Per steamer Achilles, sailed on 21st September For Port Said:—21 cases glass bananas. For Odessa:—67 bales galangal. For Genoa:—00 bales cassia. For Marseilles:—450 cases cassia, 52 bales human hair, 9 cases human hair, 14 cases tea, 67 bales galangal, 10 cases essential oil. For Bordeaux:—23 rolls matting. For Liverpool:—150 bales waste silk, 21 packages Chinese goods, 825 cases ginger. For Manchester:—105 bales waste silk.

Per P. & O. steamer Simla, sailed on 23rd Sept. For London:—55 cases bristls 8 cases cigars, 480 bales hemp, 50 rolls matting, 39 cases Porcelain, 1 case curios, 3 packages sundries, 55 half chests tea (from Foochow), 1077 pack ges tea (from Amoy), 20 bales raw silk, 14 cases silks, 161 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For St. Chamond:—10 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—75 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—195 half chests tea (from Foochow), 270 bales raw silk. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios, 1 package silk piece goods.

Per steamer Roan, sailed on 28th Sept. For Aden:—750 bags sugar, 65 rolls chinaware, 65 cases preserves, 1 case buttons, 1 bundle ising-glass. For Naples:—500 bales broken cassia, 50 cases cassia, 200 bales waste silk. For Genoa:—400 bales raw silk, 100 boxes cassia, 25 bales hemp. For Antwerp:—30 rolls matting, 2 cases cigars. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—70 cases bristls. For Amsterdam:—275 cases preserves, 6 cases chinaware. For Rotterdam:—100 cases ginger. For Bremen:—264 cases preserves, 5 cases preserves. For Hamburg:—194 bales feathers, 100 bales preserves, 58 rolls matting, 48 cases chinaware, 80 cases essential oil, 25 cases preserves, 14 bales canes, 14 cases camphorwood trunks, 7 cases feathers, 1 case silk, 1 case China silk. For Copenhagen:—284 cases preserves, 100 cases ginger, 35 cases ginger, 1 case soy, 1 case tea, 1 bale feathers, 1 case silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Ceylon*, sailed on 28th Sept. For Antwerp:—300 bales hemp and hemp strings. For Liverpool:—950 bales hemp. For Glasgow:—25 casks preserves. For Manchester:—10 bales pumjum books, 100 bales waste silk. For London:—2,885 bales hemp, 150 bales waste silk, 23 boxes tea, 933 cases preserves, 3 cases cigars, 4 bales clothing.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 29th September, 1905.—Cash business has been fairly active during the week, and rates have ruled firm with a few important exceptions. In the present state of the market a drop in rates should not be taken too seriously, as in most cases it is due to forced sales on a small and restricted market, while on the other hand a sudden rise in rates is attributable in many cases to impatient demand which cannot be immediately satisfied; the latter occurrence, however, is less frequent than the former, as tight money amongst the Chinese, the inducement to realize dollar stocks at the ruling high rate of exchange, and the influence of the monthly settlements, are strong features of the market at the present time.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been negotiated at \$90, closing steady at that. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—A few odd lots of Unions changed hands in the early part of the week at \$785, and later a fair business was transacted at \$780, the market closing at \$780 with buyers. China Traders have found a fair number of buyers at \$79 and a good business has been put through at that rate. Cantons, on the issue of their Report, have improved to \$337½ with sales and buyers. The managers recommend a dividend of \$20 per share, placing \$2,000 to reserve fund, \$50,000 to re-inurance fund, and carrying forward to the current year's account \$211,540.38, an account which has been received with much satisfaction by the shareholders. North Chinas are enquired for at Tls. 82, but no sale seems procurable. Yangtze remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have improved to \$340, after sales at \$337½, the market closing with a few sellers. Chinas have also ruled firm and the rate has risen to \$7½ without sales.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao remain steady at \$26½ with buyers while at \$27 few shares are probably procurable. Indos, with a demand from Shanghai, have risen to \$95. A fair business was put through at that rate, the market closing rather quiet with probable sellers. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars with a few settlement shares on the market, have continued weak and sales have been made at a rate under \$200, the nominal quoted price during the week. The market closes firmish at \$200. Luzons have been placed at \$15½, and close with sellers.

MINING.—We have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GOUDONS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after further small sales at \$19¾, suddenly fell to \$187 with sellers, and the rate had to be dropped further to \$184½ before sales were effected. At that rate a good many shares changed hands, and with an insufficient number to supply the demand the price rose to \$185½, at which they close with buyers. Kowloon Wharves are obtainable at \$14, without sales. Farnhams have ruled between \$14½ and \$145, closing at \$144 buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands close weak at \$128 without business. Kowloon Lands have found buyers at \$40. Humphreys at \$12½ and West Points at \$55. Hotels quiet at quotations.

COTTON MILLS.—No change or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have changed hands at \$8.90 and \$9. Dairy Farms at \$17½. Green Islands at \$27½ and \$28 (in small lots). Steam Water-boats at \$14 and Powells (old) at \$12. Watsons are enquired for at \$14½.

Closing quotations are as follows:

QUOTATIONS.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$900, sales & sel. London, £91.
National B. of China	25	\$38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11.75
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$10, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 53, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$14½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 44
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 59
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$17½
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 144, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$104, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$185½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$17, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 187½, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$27
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$23, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$154
Do. New	\$5	\$94
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$215, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$147
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$237½, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$14, sales & sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$337½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$87½, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$79, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 82, buyers
Union	\$100	\$780, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$172½
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$128, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 122½
West Point Building	\$50	\$55
Mining—		
Charbonnages	250	\$490
Raubs	18/10	\$1
Phosphate Co.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$230, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15½
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$18, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$32, ex div.
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$26½, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$5
Shell Transport Co.	\$2	\$21s., sellers
Do. Preference	\$10	\$10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$33, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$25, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$5	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Seam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$8
Do. New	\$3	\$7½, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$12, buyers
Watsons	\$10	\$11, buyers
Watson & Co., A.S.	\$10	7, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	14½ buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$9, buyers
		\$180

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 21st September, 1905, states:—Our last Report was issued on the 7th September as last week there were two holidays interfering and the mail closed on the 12th. In the interval the only feature of interest has been the steady and important advance in the price of Langkats. Other stocks remaining more or less in statu quo, The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/8½d. Banks.—H. & S. Bank. A transaction took place on the 8th inst. at \$885 ex. 71½. The Hongkong rate is quoted at \$900 buyers, and the latest London quotation is £90. 10s. Od. There is nothing doing here at present. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indos have suffered a further slight decline. The market opened at Tls. 67½ for September, and Tls. 69½ for December, but subsequently shares have been imported from Hongkong at Tls. 67 cash and 60½ September. For September and October Tls. 67 has been done. Yesterday there was a quotation

of Tls. 68½ November. Shanghai Tugs. There has been a small lot of Prof. shares on the market for some days at Tls. 47½. These shares could be placed at Tls. 47. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyds. We have had a quiet week in this stock, but at the close the market is stronger. Shares have been dealt in from Tls. 139, 140, 140½ and 141 September, Tls. 142½ October, Tls. 143½ November, and Tls. 145 December. At the close, however, there are buyers at better rates, Tls. 142 September, Tls. 146½ for December. S. & H. Wharf Co., were slightly easier at the commencement, shares being sold at Tls. 185 and 183 for September, while for December, Tls. 190½, 190 and 188 were done. In this stock also at the close there are buyers at market rates. Sugars.—China Sugars are reported from Hongkong at 230 buyers. Mining.—Chinese Eng. and Min. Co., have been placed again this week at Tls. 7½ cash. Weihaiwei Golds. Ordinary shares have changed hands at \$94. Lands.—Shanghai lands remain at Tls. 122. Industrial.—Cotton stocks. Ewos were done at Tls. 52½ cash and October. The market remains steady at this figure. Laou Kung Mows have been done at Tls. 59, and there are sellers at this rate. Shanghai Gas. Shares have been dealt in at Tls. 123½ cash. Maatschaap, &c., in Langkats. In this stock we have had a very large business, and the rise from Tls. 175, at which we opened on the 8th, to the present price of Tls. 225 for cash, has been almost uninterrupted. We will not detail the various rates quoted since our last, the only break in the continuity of the rise being on the 19th, when in the morning cash shares changed hands at Tls. 225 and in the afternoon shares were offering at Tls. 212½. Yesterday, however, there was another rush for shares and our closing rates, as far as we can state of an irregular market of this kind, are Tls. 225 cash and Tls. 230 for October, Tls. 235 for December, closing strong. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz. There are some enquiries at \$28. Weeks & Co. There are buyers at \$20. Astor House have been placed at \$28 and \$28½ September. Lane, Crawford have changed hands at \$145. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 1158. Shanghai Mercury at Tls. 50. Loans and Debentures.—Municipal 6 per cent. Debentures have been placed at Tls. 99 and there are small lots offering at this figure.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 2nd October.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	242
Credits 4 months' sight	246½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	197
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	46½
Credits, 60 days' sight	47½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	148½
Bank, on demand	144
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	143½
Bank, on demand	144
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	7½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	94½
ON MANILA.—On demand	94½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	9 p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	115½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1 p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	Far.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	61½
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10 30
GOLD LEAF, 10 fine, per tael	\$54.10
BAR SILVER, per oz.	28

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland).—Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tels 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

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